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Rae prepares for Israel trip

By RON CSILLAG

TORONTO — Premier Bob Rae is poised to lead a 10-day business mission to Israel, the territories and Jordan — the first such trip by an Ontario leader — hoping to capitalize on the windfalls peace is expected to bring to the region.

Rae will lead the 12-member delegation of blue-chip Ontario businesses, whose goal is to forge strategic alliances with their Mideast counterparts, specifically in the area of high technology.

The premier will also meet with several Ontario representatives of business interests already in the region.

The trip, from Dec. 27 to Jan. 5, will coincide with meetings of the Canadian Jewish Congress national executive, which plans a whirlwind working visit to Israel. Rae is scheduled to attend Shabbat dinner in Jerusalem on Dec. 31 and to address the CJC leaders on Jan. 2.

The premier is slated to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Dec. 29, as well as pay a courtesy call on Jan. 4 to the royal palace in Amman, Jordan.

It is not yet known whether the ailing King Hussein will be able to meet Rae. If not, the premier will hold talks with Crown Prince Hassan, the king's brother and heir to Jordan's throne.

While in Amman, Rae will meet with Jordanian business people, bankers and government leaders.

In between, the premier will lay a wreath at Yad Vashem; visit the new Jerusalem City Hall complex designed by Toronto architect Jack Diamond, who is part of the delegation; make a presentation at Hebrew University; address a luncheon of the Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce; and meet with Palestinian leaders in the territories, including peace negotiator Faisal Husseini and local mayors.

But the trip's thrust, Rae told the *CJN* in an interview at his Queen's Park office, is to show the Ontario flag and promote Canada-Israel trade, which historically has been disappointingly tepid.

Conservative Premier Bill Davis travelled to Israel in 1976, but, unlike Rae's trip, that was not a working visit.

It was at a Queen's Park reception for local Arabs and Jews, following the historic signing in September of the Israel-PLO accord, that Rae was invited to Israel.

Ontario premier Bob Rae ...off to Israel

"We don't really have as strong an economic relationship [with Israel] as you would expect," the premier said. "Trade has been remarkably small."

The United States, he noted, has 10 times Canada's population but does 100 times more trade with Israel than this country does.

Indeed, Canadian exports to Israel amounted to $116 million worth of goods in 1992, down 12 per cent from the year before, while Canada's imports from Israel were valued at $131 million last year, a four per cent rise over 1991.

Those figures are dwarfed by the trade Canada does with Saudi Arabia, which surpasses the half-billion dollar mark.

Rae said he and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres discussed Canada-Israel trade during Peres's Toronto visit last March.

"Israel is a centre of high-tech activity and research," the premier pointed out. "There's a lot of potential connection and synergy between Canada and Israel.

"And as the peace process unfolds, we'll be looking more and more at an [economically] integrated Middle East, in which Israel can play an enormous role."

Rae also touched on the continuing Arab economic boycott of Israel and of companies doing business with Israel, saying Canada and other nations "have to do more" to bring about an end to the measure.

Participants in the mission are looking forward, he said, to establishing long-term business relationships with their Israeli counterparts.

Those going on the mission are Jack Diamond, principal of A.J. Diamond, Donald Schmitt & Co., a world-renowned architectural firm; Ken Kivenko, president of AlliedSignal Aerospace Canada; Moni Eino of Ault Foods Ltd.; John Schioler, director general of the Canada-Arab Business Council; Mohammad Al Zaibak, president and CEO of Canadian Development and Marketing Corp.; James Metcalf, president and CEO of Cansult Group Ltd., an engineering and project management firm; Samir Zalzal, president of Ingersoll-Rand Canada Inc.; John Rogers and Ronald Yamada, president and COO and vice-president, respectively, of MDS Health Group Ltd., a technology-based health services and product company; Brian Emery, a vice-president of Monenco AGRA Inc.; Peter Sommerer and Larry Keith, executives of Newbridge Networks Corp., a telecommunications company; Arthur Carty, dean of research at the University of Waterloo; and Eberhard Zeidler of Zeidler Roberts Partnership, a leading architectural firm.

Rae will be accompanied by his wife, Arlene Perly Rae, and their three daughters, Eleanor, Judith and Lisa.

A WIDOW'S GRIEF

Violence in the territories has escalated as the implementation of the Israel-PLO accord approaches. Father and son Mordechai and Shalom Lapid were killed recently by terrorists outside Kiryat Arba, which is near Hebron. Seen here is Miriam Lapid holding one of her children during the funeral. The procession was stoned by Arabs as it passed through the centre of Hebron. [ISRANET photo]

Israel, PLO attempt to break impasse

JERUSALEM (JPFS) — Israel and the PLO ended two days of talks last weekend in Oslo and agreed to meet again this week to break the impasse between the two sides, a Norwegian official said.

A statement by Norwegian Foreign Ministry official Sverre Bergh Johansen said: "The two delegations went home for consultations and will meet again in the next few days."

Asked if the statement meant the meeting at the Borregaard country mansion in southeastern Norway had achieved nothing, Bergh Johansen said "no," but he did not elaborate.

As the talks continued last Sunday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin linked a future meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to first ending the current impasse.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said Rabin spoke by phone at least four times last weekend with two of Israel's top negotiators at Oslo, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials said earlier in Jerusalem that the meeting with Arafat could take place after progress is made, but without necessarily resolving all outstanding issues.

"I believe all issues won't be resolved in Oslo, but at least it will narrow the gap so Rabin and Arafat can meet," said one official.

Senior officials in Jerusalem have made clear that the main obstacle to implementation of the agreement is the PLO's refusal to accept Israeli control of border crossing points between Jordan and Jericho as well as between Gaza and Egypt.

The officials indicated that if the Palestinians yield on this point, Israel would be willing to compromise on another sticking point — the size of Jericho.

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A New Delhi Chanukah

By PATRICIA RUCKER

NEW DELHI, India — It could have been a menorah-lighting anywhere in the Jewish world. Youngsters acted out the story of the Maccabees on a makeshift outdoor stage, the first Chanukah candle flared in the darkness and the voices of the crowd around the Chanukiah rang out: *Maoz tsur, yeshuati . . .*"

But this was the Judah Hyam Prayer Hall in New Delhi. The minuscule (40-member) Jewish community in India's capital was out in force, but the dominant language in the packed social hall was neither Hindi nor English — it was Hebrew.

For the North American Jewish visitors, the sight and sound of scores of Israeli youngsters in Indian cotton shirts and jeans, crowding around tables laden with sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) and soft drinks, was totally unexpected. Throughout the preceding week, we had visited the

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Canada

UJA helps kids cope with horrors of war

By RICHARD LOBELL

Four days before, Jacob Hitagshvili had been frantic. His oldest child, David, a tall, handsome boy of 15, had been kidnapped, and the abductors had demanded a million-dollar ransom. Now, after a deal brokered with the help of the local Jewish Agency representative, David was back with his family in their comfortable home in the heart of Tbilisi's old Jewish Quarter.

He is one of many Jewish youths kidnapped and held for ransom recently in Tbilisi, capital of the Republic of Georgia in the former Soviet Union.

Civil war is escalating in the Georgian Republic. Separatist groups control one quarter of the country. Troops loyal to former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia are about 150 miles from Tbilisi. Eduard Shevardnadze has been unable to maintain law and order even in the capital, home to most of Georgia's 17,000 Jews.

Meanwhile, in Tbilisi, the Jews try to go about some sort of normal routine, though come evening people lock themselves behind their doors. Fear and uncertainty are always present, like the constant hum of high tension wires.

Spiraling inflation

With spiraling inflation, an average salary in Georgia is now worth about $4 a month, hardly enough to buy bread. Jews, perceived as wealthy, are often the victims of crime. In fact, many of Tbilisi's Jews are desperately poor, especially the elderly, whose pensions amount to barely $2 monthly. People try to sell what possessions they have to buy food, and many of the apartments I saw were starkly bare. The JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee), through the local Jewish women's organization, "Miriam," distributes basic foodstuffs to Tbilisi's neediest Jews.

Close to Tbilisi's ornate Sephardic synagogue, 150 children come every day to study at the city's only Jewish day school. Thanks to UJA, the school receives funding, equipment, books and program material from the JDC. Situated on a narrow, winding street, its steel doors remain bolted and manned from within by an armed guard. Older students help with guard duty. An old shotgun with a duck hunting scene carved in the stock serves as their weapon.

My first Saturday in Tbilisi was spent at the school with the many students who come each week to experience a traditional Shabbat. In the late afternoon, shots rang out close by. A few students ran to the balcony overlooking the street, one picking up the shotgun as he ran. Other boys continued their chess games and their study.

An hour later, we walked to the synagogue for afternoon prayers. Lying on the cobbled street, ten yards from the synagogue courtyard, lay the body of a middle-aged women. She had been caught in the crossfire we had heard earlier. When we left the synagogue, the only indication of what had happened were the dark stains on the cobblestones.

According to Jacob Efraimashvili, the Jewish Agency representative in Tbilisi, "Many people are reluctant to leave because they have property here. The value of their apartments has fallen to around $5,000, still a small fortune in Georgia. In any case, no one is buying. If you do sell, the word gets out and you are in danger of being robbed. Many families are sending their children to Israel first, hoping to join them later."

Despite the difficulties in leaving, the rate of aliyah has doubled. Some 3,500 Georgian Jews are expected to leave for Israel this year on Operation Exodus direct flights leaving weekly for Tel Aviv.

I left Tbilisi on the flight to Israel with 72 Georgian Jews. Next to me sat ZsiZsi and ZsaZsa, a young couple just married. "Yes," said ZsaZsa, a graduate of the Moscow Institute of Economics, "the situation is terrible and I see no future for us here, but that is not the main reason we are going to Israel. We hope to have children, and we want them to grow up proud Jews in a land they can call their own."

Fifteen-year-old David Hitabshvii (centre) is safe at home with his family in Tbilisi, capital of the Republic of Georgia. David is one of many young Jews who have been held for ransom as law and order are replaced by civil war in the republic of the former Soviet Union. [UJA Press Service/Richard Lobell photo]

JF&CS CHANUKAH PARTY

Jewish Family and Child Service held a Chanukah party for foster children and their families at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. About 160 children, volunteers and families enjoyed clowns courtesy of Upper Canada Lodge, food courtesy of Peter Graben and the Purple Dinosaur. Seen here are Fern Silver (left) and Phyllis Korman, the volunteers who helped to ensure a successful party, with happy children holding their Chanukah gifts.

Freilich gathering at the Forks

By MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG — It was a freilich gathering at the Forks on Dec. 8, as about 200 members of the Jewish community gathered to celebrate the first Chanukah at the historic centre of Winnipeg.

"We have always put up a menorah near the Legislature," said Evelyn Hecht, the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council's director of community relations, "but there has never been any program associated with it."

This year the Forks Renewal Corporation approached the Jewish community to become part of its Family Tradition celebrations. The Forks lie at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers.

In 1986, the three levels of government bought the land from CN Rail and transformed it into parkland with an indoor market, outdoor skaing rink and other recreational and retail structures that highlight the area's long history.

Tremendous interest

"We had no idea how people might react or how many would turn out the first time," Hecht said. "There was tremendous interest and a lot of parents with young children came."

The program, which was held in the pavilion beside the skating rink, consisted of opening remarks by Michael Werier, the story of Chanukah narrated by Fred Narvey of the YMHA Jewish Community Centre's seniors Stay Young Club, and traditional Chanukah songs sung by the Stay Young Choir.

Latkes were served and all the children received chocolate Chanukah gelt. As well, the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada organized a display of chanukkiat and driedels crafted by Winnipeg artists, and decorations by school children.

"This year, we limited the program to our seniors choir," Hecht said. "We had little time for advance planning. Next year, we will be able to plan much earlier and involve many more elements of the community."

Hecht emphasised the Chanukah celebrations at the Forks were in no way intended to compete with Chabad which has been putting on public celebrations and putting up menorahs for several years in front of City Hall and city hospitals.

CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS OFFICES
Toronto: 10 Gateway Blvd.
Suite 420, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 3A1
Tel: 416-422-2331, Advertising Fax: 416-422-3790
Editorial Fax: 416-424-1886
Montreal: Décor Décarie, Suite 341,
6900 boul Decarie, Montreal, Que H3X 2T8,
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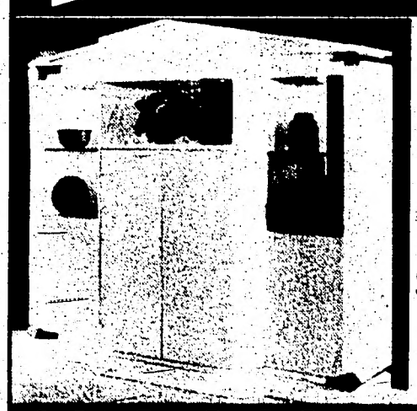

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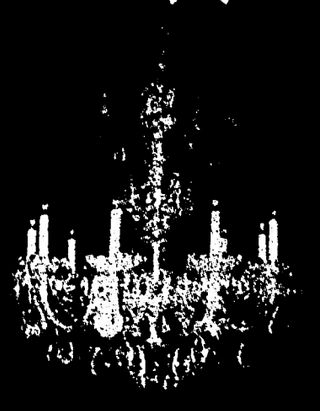

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Orthodox organizations gather in Catskills for first assembly

By MIRIAM SOBEL

OTTAWA — Modern Orthodoxy is a vibrant movement with much to offer Jews and the wider community, delegates heard at the first-ever assembly of North American Orthodox organizations held recently at Davidman's Homowack resort in the Catskills Mountains in New York.

More than 700 people attended the Inaugural North American Orthodox Leadership Conference in late November. Described as a General Assembly for the Orthodox movement, the conference brought together 16 organizations, including groups like the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, the Rabbinic Alumni of Yeshiva University and the Rabbinical Council of America.

"I came out with a whole rejuvenated perspective on the Orthodox Jewish community," said Rabbi Howard Finkelstein of Ottawa's Congregation Beth Shalom West.

The recurring message of the conference, he said, was that members of centrist Orthodoxy can feel self-confident about what the movement stands for.

"Orthodoxy really does have its feet planted in the modern world," he said.

Leading international rabbis and lay leaders led sessions on divorce, Jewish continuity, education, women's role in Judaism, Israel and how Jewish law answers modern problems.

From the 1940s through the 1960s, sociologists were predicting Orthodoxy would disappear, said Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa. But it didn't happen. The movement is secure, he said.

"We are beyond looking back over our shoulder to see if we are going to make it . . . We don't have to worry about maintenance. Now we have to go out and do."

Now it's time to address problems that concern both the Jewish and the wider community, Bulka said. The conference was an ideal beginning, he added, because it harnessed the energy of so many groups.

All the groups represented at the conference meet regularly, but this was the first time they came together under one umbrella. People from Ottawa who attended described the atmosphere as "vibrant."

"I came back flying," said Tom Caplan, a lay leader at Young Israel synagogue in Ottawa. He said it was stimulating to be among so many intellectual, centrist, Orthodox Jews.

One of the many highlights of the conference, said Caplan, was a session with Rabbi Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University in New York, who spoke about the ideology of centrist Orthodoxy. It is unbashedly Zionist, he said, stands firmly for the secular and religious education of women, is bound by Jewish law, but believes Jews should participate in the secular world.

"I really found that this was a group that I could strongly identify with," Caplan said.

Another theme of the conference, said Bob Dale, a member of Beth Shalom West, was the importance of building bridges between Orthodox congregations, other streams of Judaism and unaffiliated Jews. Orthodoxy offers a strong sense of community it can extend to all Jews.

"What the conference did was to show that there was a lot of common ground. What we should be doing is fighting other threats, rather than each other," he said.

NCJW moves to Winnipeg as economy takes toll on group

By MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG — The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) of Canada has moved its head office from Toronto to Winnipeg.

The Toronto office was closed on Nov. 30. The Winnipeg office opened Dec. 9.

"Volunteer organizations are being effected by the economic downturn as much as businesses are," says Sharon Wolchock, the newly-installed president of Canada's oldest Jewish women's organization.

"We have to become fiscally responsible. We realized the need to reduce expenses. By renting office space in our Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre in Winnipeg, we have realized a huge reduction in rent. We have also reduced staff. We can put the savings into programming and service to our members where our money should be spent."

Wolchock believes Winnipeg's central location will make it easier for her to reach all parts of the country. She did concede that not everyone was in agreement with the move.

"We are doing this on a trial basis," she says. "There are those who think we should move back to Toronto. I think debate is healthy. As long as we come together for the common good and benefit of our organization, we will be successful."

Wolchock is the fourth NCJW national president from Winnipeg, which, she says, speaks well for the Winnipeg section and the strength of its leadership. She was installed as president of the 3,600-strong organization on Oct. 26 at its national convention in Ottawa.

A member of NCJW for over 30 years, the new president aims to concentrate on membership growth, development and leadership and developing a strong fiscal base. "We have been successful in attracting younger women who see the value of Council," she says. "They appreciate the fact that we look after Canadian needs in addition to our Israel Family Counselling Association. Canada has been good to us and we want to participate in its development."

NCJW has long been associated with seniors programs throughout the country. The organization pioneered seniors centres in Winnipeg and Montreal in the late 1940s. As Wolchock notes, the Montreal section also operates a kosher women's shelter and an after-school program for children from dysfunctional families to do homework and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

Women's health is a major NCJW concern. The organization has developed a women's health manual, with advice on how to select a doctor and what questions to ask. Wolchock reports the Toronto section initiated a breast self-examination program last spring that was very well received.

"We hope to expand this program across the country," she says. "The clinics would be staffed by trained nurses and screening would take place in a comfortable setting. We also plan to take this program to other countries in co-operation with the International Council of Jewish Women. One of our members will be introducing the program to South America possibly in the spring."

One of Wolchock's missions as president will be to visit each of the NCJW of Canada sections at least once a year. She has already been to Montreal and Toronto twice.

"I think face-to-face contact is more effective over distances than letters," she says. "I want to meet with the general membership and perhaps stimulate interest in our programs in the larger Jewish community."

She would also like to establish some outreach programs to smaller Jewish communities, in particular in the Maritimes, where NCJW does not have a president.

Wolchock has already realized one of the pluses that derive from being head of a major national Jewish organization. She was one of 50-odd guests invited to lunch with Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when he stopped off in Ottawa in November.

Child survivors attend gathering

LANCASTER, PA. — Over 200 child survivors of the Nazi Holocaust attended a national gathering, the sixth of its kind, here recently. For those who had lost most, if not all, of their relatives this year's theme of We are a Family was especially poignant.

The two-day event drew survivors from Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Chicago, Connecticut, Montreal and Toronto. Many have formed close groups in their own communities, meeting regularly to discuss survivor issues and concerns. Such groups now exist in the United States, Canada, England and Australia.

Last year, this gathering was held in Jerusalem and was attended by children survivors from around the world. Next year the group will meet in Montreal from Oct. 7-10, 1994.

Children of survivors interested in joining a group in Montreal may call Erica Hecht at 935-2874, Fax 935-0869.

Clarification

In the article "Communities Rapid Growth Tied to Intermarriage Increase" (Dec. 16), a statement in the last paragraph inadvertently insults Jewish women. *The CJN* apologizes for this.

The articles that appeared in *The CJN* Nov. 25 and Dec. 9 and 16 on the study *Demographic Challenges Facing Canadian Jewry: Initial Findings from the 1991 Census* omitted to mention two authors in addition to Jim Torczyner and Gustave Goldmann.

They are Shari Brotman and Kathy Viragh of the McGill Consortium for Ethnicity and Strategic Social Planning.

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Canada

Radio program prompts CJC to lodge complaint

By FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO — The Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress has lodged a complaint with the Canadian Radio-Television & Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) against University of Toronto radio station CIUT over comments made on a segment of the one-hour talk show *African Woman and Family*, which aired November 19.

In an interview with husband and wife Brother Andragon and Sister Galextra Kavanaugh, who were introduced as "practitioners of ancient African religions," host Nomvoyu Hyman discussed the recent trial of black activist Dudley Laws on a charge of abetting illegal immigration.

Laws' supporters, who wore traditional African headgear, were ordered out of the courtroom. Hyman asked her guests, "Would a Jewish person be treated this way?"

Galextra Kavanaugh's answer began, "Of course not. The Jews are running the whole country, literally. They are the judges. They are the ones controlling practically every sector of our society. They are the ones controlling the money...."

"We're not dealing with an announcer making an unfortunate slip of the tongue. We believe [the remarks were] instigated by the interviewer...[who] allowed this tirade to go on," Bernie Farber, national director of community relations for CJC, told *The CJN*.

CIUT program director Dan Hart said he would have told Hyman to handle the situation differently.

"There's no question it was anti-Semitism. Common sense says cut them off."

Since he joined the radio station in March, Hart has been conducting orientation sessions with new broadcasters, many of them students and all volunteers, to acquaint them with the station rules and regulations. (Hyman is not a student; she told *The CJN* she has had broadcast training.)

No disciplinary measures are being planned by the station against Hyman. "I'm not a huge believer in the crime and punishment equation, though I'm not in any way condoning what was said in this instance," Hart said.

He believes incidents like this "tend to sensitize [hosts] so that other times their treatment of these issues is more informed."

Hart told *The CJN* there would be "a very clear retraction" on the December 10 show.

When the program aired, Hyman stated her show "has prided itself as an entity that is anti-racist.

"A guest on *The African Woman and Family* made certain remarks on the show which members of the Jewish community found offensive and hurtful. They also alluded to the comments as being anti-Semitic," she said.

She went on to speak of Africa's "history of tolerance of religious differences" and its "gifts" to Judaism. "It is inconceivable that *African Woman and Family* ... would invite or permit or disseminate hurt against any group of people," she concluded.

Joshua Schwarz, Ontario director of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights, was "disappointed" to hear what he termed a "semi-apology. I didn't think it was an apology at all. It's very upsetting. It wasn't the fact that Jews were offended. Everybody should have been offended."

Early the following week, subsequent to contact from both CJC and B'nai Brith, CIUT began airing thrice-daily messages apologizing for the broadcast, to be aired for two weeks.

"A recent CIUT show provided a platform for anti-Semitic views. For the pain this caused, CIUT apologizes," the message began.

When contacted by *The CJN* after the December 10 show, Hyman denied Galextra's comments were racist, although she said that she could "see a problem [with] the generalizations."

As Hyman explained it, the black community "uses language differently." She insisted that references to "the Jews" did not refer to all Jews. She maintained that "our community knows what [was] meant. It is obvious that [Canadian Jewish Congress] did not understand what they meant."

Hyman noted that Andragon Kavanaugh followed his wife's comments with an "explanation."

"What we want to make clear," he said, "is that the Kavanaughs are not prejudiced against anyone, but we see very clearly the way the society is structured... We understand what [the Jewish community has] gone through and they have used their community strength ... their language, their culture, their innovativeness ... to build. We respect and admire that...

"We want our Jewish brothers and sisters to start taking responsibilities for the power they've gathered and earned and to start recognizing that they must use it to lift up others who, like they were, are still being pushed down and still being walked all over."

Galextra responded: "Yes, but ... they want to make sure they hold on to that power. And they feel that in order to do so, they must push certain parties aside... Now I am not one to say that I'm prejudiced against anyone. I love all of life...."

Hyman insisted to *The CJN* that "black people can *not* be racist. We do not wield any power.

"I don't say it's okay to make these statements," she added.

She said if she had to do it over again, she would have had Galextra Kavanaugh explain "exactly what she meant. I don't know if cutting her off would solve it."

Farber, who has dealt only with Hart and has not spoken to Hyman, said the station's on-air apology "would go a long way toward ameliorating the problem" but would not prevent the complaint to the CRTC.

White supremacist released from jail

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — Carney Nerland, former Saskatchewan leader of the white supremacist Aryan Nations, was released from prison last week after serving two-thirds of a four-year sentence for the shooting death of native trapper Leo LaChance.

Nerland was freed with the standard conditions that go with for all statutorily-mandated releases, said Clarence Roussel, a spokesman for the National Parole Board (NPB). Among them are the requirements he report regularly to police and to his parole officer and that he carry no weapons.

Nerland was also reportedly placed into a witness protection program.

His release without additional conditions sparked a letter of "grave concern" from Canadian Jewish Congress to NPB chair Michel Dagenais.

"We are disturbed the board did not exercise its discretion responsibly in failing to add conditions to the standard conditions of release binding on Nerland," wrote Hal Joffe, national chair of community relations for Congress.

Citing Nerland's links to the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, Joffe wrote, "It would have been advisable for the board to order Nerland not to associate or be involved with neo-Nazi and/or extremist racist organizations, as a condition of his release.

"Without such a prohibition there is every reason to be concerned that Nerland will revert to the same type of asocial and violent behavior which was ultimately responsible for LaChance's death."

In April 1991, Nerland pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges after shooting LaChance as the trapper left his Prince Albert gun shop.

Nerland's four-year sentence outraged native leaders. An inquiry into the case found that Nerland was likey motivated by racism when he shot LaChance. But because of a court ruling, the inquiry was not permitted to look into allegations that Nerland received preferential treatment because he was a police informer.

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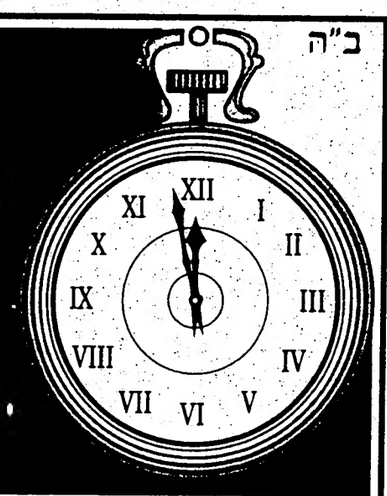

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Deportation inquiry adjourned to Jan. 14

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —The lawyer representing a Russian Jewish family facing deportation to an area of the former Soviet Union where a civil war is raging has filed an affidavit alleging bias on the part of the immigration department adjudicator and has asked the Federal Court of Appeal to remove the adjudicator.

As a result, the adjudicator, Sylvan Grattan, adjourned the deportation inquiry to Jan. 14, to give counsel a chance to study the transcripts, thus granting a second reprieve to Felix Gogniev, 56, his ex-wife, Dina Tsallaeva, and their two daughters, Tima, 27, and Zalina, 25. They have been in Canada for three years on visitors' visas.

Gogniev told a previous hearing of the inquiry that the family faces certain death if they are returned to North Ossetia, an area on the border of Georgia, where, he said, warring tribes are anti-Semitic.

In her affidavit filed by Constance Nakatsu, another lawyer, Christina Kurata of Downsview Community Legal Serices alleges "the appearance of bias or the reasonable apprehension of bias," on the part of Grattan at the initial inquiry Nov. 15, when the adjudicator made remarks about welfare recipients. At the hearing, Grattan immediately said she meant the remarks in a "spirit of levity."

Kurata also complained in her affidavit that Grattan failed to deliver on her promise to provide tapes of the hearing so she could study the question of possible bias.

Kurata said she failed to get the tapes even though she phoned Grattan and faxed a formal request as ordered to do. Instead, Kurata said, she received a transcript of the evidence (not the tapes) after business hours on Dec. 16, the evening before the inquiry was due to resume on Dec. 17. In her affidavit, the lawyer claimed she was told that the transcript was ready Dec. 2, even though she did not get it till 14 days later.

Another complication, she said, was that her courier was turned away in the afternoon of Dec. 16, because of a Christmas party at the immigration offices, and turned away a second time later in the afternoon, resulting in the transcript reaching her at a late hour. She has still not received the tapes.

Prior to adjourning the inquiry to Jan. 14, Grattan apologized for the delay in providing the tapes, but said that an error in transmission of the fax was part of the problem. As soon as the tapes are located, she said, they will be provided to counsel.

New translation

The inquiry of Nov. 15 had originally been put over because Grattan said she wanted to consider withdrawing because of difficulties she was having when the Gogniev family did not agree with the translations of evidence being provided by the court-appointed translator. However, a few days later, she informed Kurata she would continue with the inquiry.

A new translator, Svetlana Vishtalenka, was present for the adjourned inquiry and will be on hand for the next session.

Clarification

Herbert Friedberg, the father of Jason Friedberg, the 24-year-old Montreal native murdered last March in Israel, would like to clarify a point regarding a characterization that appeared in the Dec. 9 *CJN*.

Friedberg said any impression he may have left that he has "lost his faith" since his son's death was inadvertent on his part. He said his belief in God remains firm, although he continues to struggle to reconcile that faith with the tragedy that took place.

Little anti-Jewish bias found in Canada: survey

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — A survey conducted on behalf of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews (CCCJ) shows only six percent of Canadians harbor negative feelings about Jews.

The survey, conducted by Decima Research, also found that 11 percent of respondents told interviewers that they thought Jews were the group most discriminated against, far less than the 39 percent who thought blacks were the subject of the most discrimination. Other groups which respondents thought suffered more discrimination than Jews included natives, East Indians and Asians.

The report found the highest levels of discrimination against Jews among those over 55 and it found a substantially higher negative impression of Jews in Quebec than in any other province or region (12 percent of Quebec respondents had negative or very negative impressions about Jews versus five percent in Ontario, the Prairies or Atlantic Canada). Negative impressions about Jews were also greater among those at the lowest end of the economic scale as compared to those with higher incomes.

In summarizing its overall findings, the Decima report stated that "virtually all Canadians acknowledge that racism is a reality in Canada, with almost nine in ten reporting that at least some racism exists and one-quarter of the population reporting that a great deal of racism is apparent in the national fabric."

The report went on to say that "much of the concern about racism. . . stems from exposure to media rather than to direct exposure or to experience of racism on a personal level." Although "Canadians do not currently feel threatened by racism or [its] effects," they are concerned that it "may move closer to their own communities and therefore, their own lives."

The report concluded that "the majority of the population rejects racial and ethnic stereotypes and rejects overtly racist views or actions. That is not to say that Canadians do not hold some racist views. They are, however, cognizant of the societal unacceptability of such views and reveal little likelihood of acting on any racist beliefs or perceptions they may hold."

Elyse Graff, national executive-director of the CCCJ, said the survey shows that the majority of Canadians believe the inability of groups to get along is the major source of racism.

Preference for conformity

She said one of the report's most interesting findings concerned public attitudes to multiculturalism, in which the response of those from visible minorities mirrored the views of the majority. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing," she said, pointing out that the majority of respondents showed a preference for conformity to the existing way of life and for "fitting in."

The report stated that "Canadians report a preference for a 'homogenization' of the society through adoption by immigrants of Canada's values and way of life. . . The lack of conformity — that is, the 'multicultural' rather than 'melting pot' approach to immigration and ethnic settlement — is a source of frustration for Canadians. This frustration asserts itself and becomes more pronounced or more intense when the population believes that perceived 'special interests' are making demands of the society, The data suggests Canadians generally are increasingly intolerant of interest group demands. There is a relatively strong view that particular ethnic, racial or religious minorities must make efforts to adapt to Canada rather than insisting upon a maintenance of differences."

Hal Joffe, national chair of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, cautioned that a complex report such as that prepared by Decima "requires careful, sober consideration." The suggestion that a large majority of Canadians do not support multiculturalism is not supported by the report's findings, he said.

The poll asks people to describe their perception of issues, not what they themselves feel about the issues, he pointed out.

Furthermore, the definitions of key words used in the questions is unclear, he said.

Nevertheless, the finding that only six percent of respondents have negative views of Jews "gives us a pause for positive reflection. Perhaps the work we've being doing over the years has had a positive impact," he said.

Graff said the CCCJ commissioned the report because "we wanted to identify the major issues in this area, have a vehicle for enlightening the Canadian public and develop a baseline of information to use for a 'harmony barometer' in future years."

Decima's report was based on the results of an 85-question telephone survey involving 1,200 respondents from across Canada.

Officer charged after racist links discovered

TORONTO — A 24-year-old police constable has been charged under the Police Act with discreditable conduct for his associations with the white supremacist Heritage Front.

Brad Coulbeck could face dismissal from the force or other disciplinary actions if a police tribunal finds against him. The charges allege that Coulbeck, who has been suspended from the force since mid-August after he and his fiancee were charged with assaulting each other, is on a Heritage Front mailing list, had purchased and distributed Heritage Front material and attended a 1992 Ku Klux Klan rally in the United States.

The *Toronto Sun* reported last week that Coulbeck's involvement with the racist organization goes even deeper. An affidavit by Front defector Elisse Hategan states that she was told that Coulbeck was a member of the white supremacist organization. Coulbeck denied that allegation, saying, "I was not a member and have never been. I am not a racist."

He told the *Sun* he likes researching radical groups and that he called the Front's hotline in November 1992 to obtain information about the group for a cousin working at a high school newspaper.

Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada were quick to praise the police for "taking swift action" in charging Coulbeck.

Congress spokesman Bernie Farber said, "There will be a few bad apples in every large organization."

Ellen Cole, vice-chair of community relations for Congress, said the Canadian Armed Forces should follow the lead of the police and take legal actions against "an individual assigned to the elite Canadian Airborne Division and identified as having strong links with neo-Nazi organizations in Alberta."

B'nai Brith stated it has arranged a meeting with Toronto police chief William McCormack to discuss the Coulbeck case and other issues. The organization also called for a "national, multi-level law enforcement task force to deal with hatemongers."

Meanwhile, Martin Theriault, spokesman for the Montreal-based Canadian Centre on Racism and Prejudice, said Hategan continues to provide a wealth of information about the racist group. Hategan, he said, "was pampered by the Heritage Front, presented as one of its main spokesmen and was in the inner circle of the leadership."

Theriault said Hategan's information includes the following:

- the Front's leadership encourages members, some as young as 16, to obtain Firearm Acquisition Certificates.
- Front leaders encourage members to join the armed forces to obtain self-defence training, but also because the group believes the forces could be a fertile ground for recruitment.
- Front members are trained to tell interviewers that they are not racist, but simply interested in equal rights for whites.
- Members pitch that line to senior citizens, asking them for financial support so they can lobby for the rights of white people.

Theriault said Hategan's inside information confirms that the Heritage Front is "not a white lobby group, but a white supremacist, armed revolutionary movement that strongly believes that society is heading towards racial war."

He said Hategan has been "in a safe environment" since she left the Front in mid-November and that some of her information has been shared with police. The information she has provided, coupled with what police and anti-racist groups already know, "could give a very good blow to the Heritage Front and its leadership," he said. — **P.L.**

CJC outlines concerns on war crimes

TORONTO — Fed up with a lack of action on the war crimes portfolio, Canadian Jewish Congress is calling for the appointment of independent prosecutors to examine cases currently under investigation and to take some to court.

Congress made the recommendation last week in a meeting with newly-appointed Justice Minister Allan Rock. During the 45-minute meeting, a Congress delegation briefed the minister about its concerns over the slow pace of prosecutions by the department's war crimes unit and by its failures in almost all of the cases it has prosecuted.

The minister seemed "genuinely interested in understanding our concerns," said Jack Silverstone, national executive director and general counsel of Congress.

Since the Criminal Code was amended in 1987 to allow for the prosecution of war crimes, only five cases have been advanced. One, involving Imre Finta, ended in acquittal; two cases, involving Stephen Reistetter and Michael Pawlawski, were dropped by the Crown; and one criminal prosecution is still ongoing.

Silverstone said Congress "was not in agreement with all aspects of the Crown's presentation" in the Reistetter and Pawlawski cases. The Crown eventually dropped all charges in both cases.

The war crimes unit has had only one success, in a case involving former Dutch Nazi collaborator Jacob Luitjens. Luitjens was stripped of his citizenship more than two years ago and deported to his native Holland, where he is now in prison.

Silverstone said Congress has received repeated assurances in the past that the war crimes unit was examining denaturalization and deportation as possible avenues for prosecution, but no new cases have been launched.

A Congress delegation met recently with newly-appointed Justice Minister Allan Rock to discuss the prosecution of war criminals and other issues. Seen here are (from left) Jack Silverstone, national executive-director of Congress, Rock, and Irving Abella, national president of Congress.

"We understand that the cases are complex and difficult," he said. "But because of that, they have to be dealt with in a creative and vigorous fashion."

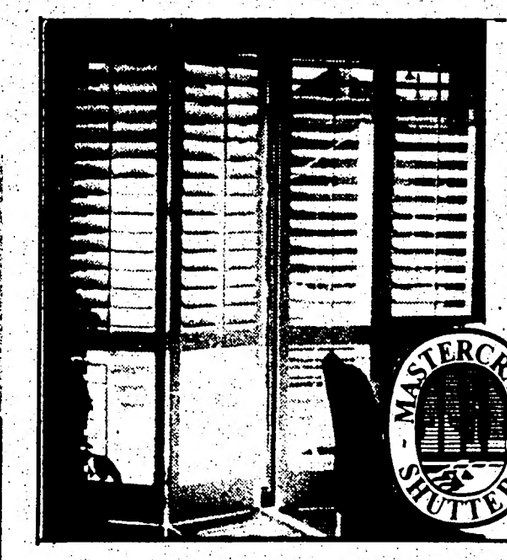
In addition to Siverstone, the Congress delegation included national president Irving Abella, and Eric Vernon, director of legislative analysis.

Vernon said a second topic discussed at the meeting was the Criminal Code's anti-hate provision. The minister was aware of Congress's long-standing position that the existing law, which has been upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, should not be amended, Vernon said. Changing the law would create "a risk of a new constitutional challenge that could lead to [its] demise," he said. Congress believes that what is now required is a more vigorous application of the law by provincial prosecutors, he added.

In other developments, Peter Kremer, head of the war crimes unit, announced recently that Canada could move within weeks to strip suspected Nazi war criminals of their citizenship.

Kremer said the unit is finishing the work in as many as 18 cases. He said the unit is focusing on the denaturalization approach to the cases, since it is proving too difficult to proceed with criminal prosecutions.

Silverstone called the announcement a "positive step," adding that it is now up to the unit to put its statements into practice and launch some prosecutions. — **P.L.**



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CJN Exclusive Moishe Rivlin

Its blue pushke boxes are as familiar to generations of Canadian Jews as the certificates showing that a tree has been planted in your name in Israel. Each year, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) raises millions of dollars through these means and through its annual Negev Dinners. The funds are used for land purchases and reclamation, afforestation, and the construction of immigrant housing in Israel. Founded in 1901 at the fifth Zionist Congress in Basel, the JNF (Keren Kayemet in Hebrew) is currently headed by 68-year-old Moishe Rivlin, chair of the board of directors. A seventh-generation Sabra, who traces his roots in Jerusalem to 1810, Rivlin has served as Israeli consul to New York and later as secretary general and director general of the Jewish Agency. In 1977 he joined the JNF as chair of the board of directors. Rivlin visited Toronto recently where he, along with Ben Prossin, director of JNF Canada, spoke to the CJN*'s Paul Lungen.*

CJN: *Are there any similarities or overlap in your work with the Jewish Agency and the JNF?*

Rivlin: No. The JNF is part of the World Zionist Organization and both when it comes to the agency and when it comes to the government, the borders of activities are quite clearly defined. I don't think there is any danger of duplication or overlap.

CJN: *What was the purpose of your trip to Canada?*

Rivlin: One purpose was to participate in the Negev Dinner in Toronto. I must say I was more than impressed; 1,100 attended. For the past 45 years, the major event for the JNF in Toronto has been the Negev Dinner. So much so that it's almost a landmark in the activities of the Jewish community. If you see the list of honorees, you will see a list of the who's who in Toronto. (This year's honoree was businessman George Cohon.)

Also, the JNF held its annual board meeting and its annual meeting with all the executives from across Canada, and I came to participate in those events. I combined it with the annual campaign leadership meeting and board meeting of the JNF in the United States.

I also used the opportunity to visit a number of communities in both Canada and the United States. I was in Winnipeg, Montreal and Hamilton and I must say that I was pleased to see the work, the activities, the number of people involved with JNF. And what's most important, I met a young generation that is not only involved, but really taking over key positions.

CJN: *How successful were the Negev Dinners across Canada?*

Rivlin: The Negev Dinner in Toronto raised in excess of $3 million and also at each dinner, when we honor someone, we designate a special project for that dinner. The [Toronto] project this year will be a George Cohon Family Youth Centre at the JNF's Camp Yatir in the northern Negev Desert, midway between Beersheva and Massada. And what's particularly important is that it's not just a summer youth camp. It will serve immigrant youth to help them integrate into society by meeting with Israeli youth. After the summer, it will serve for school field trips.

Camp Yatir is one of five JNF youth camps in Israel.

The $3 million [raised in Toronto] includes funds for that and for other projects, including Galil Canada, water projects and the traditional JNF activity of afforestation. We've planted 200 million trees in Israel, in forests and parks, just since the establishment of the state.

CJN: *How much was raised in the other cities?*

Prossin: Substantial amounts; several million dollars. The figures will be available in early January.

Rivlin: If you take last June's Negev Dinner in Winnipeg, (with a Jewish population estimated at 15,000), more than 1,850 attended, which is almost unbelievable.

In Hamilton and London, you have a few hundred people in each community who come to the Negev Dinner. That's something almost unbelievable when you consider the size of the community. [These communities] pledge a few million dollars for a project that can take a few years to complete. It doesn't mean it's cash we receive in that year.

CJN: *What has the trend been in the last few years in terms of Canadian giving?*

Rivlin: In Canada, the figures had reached a certain plateau, sometimes up, sometimes a little bit down. This year, because of the recession, everybody was afraid that the cash would be less. Until three or four months ago, we didn't think we'd finish the year with an increase.

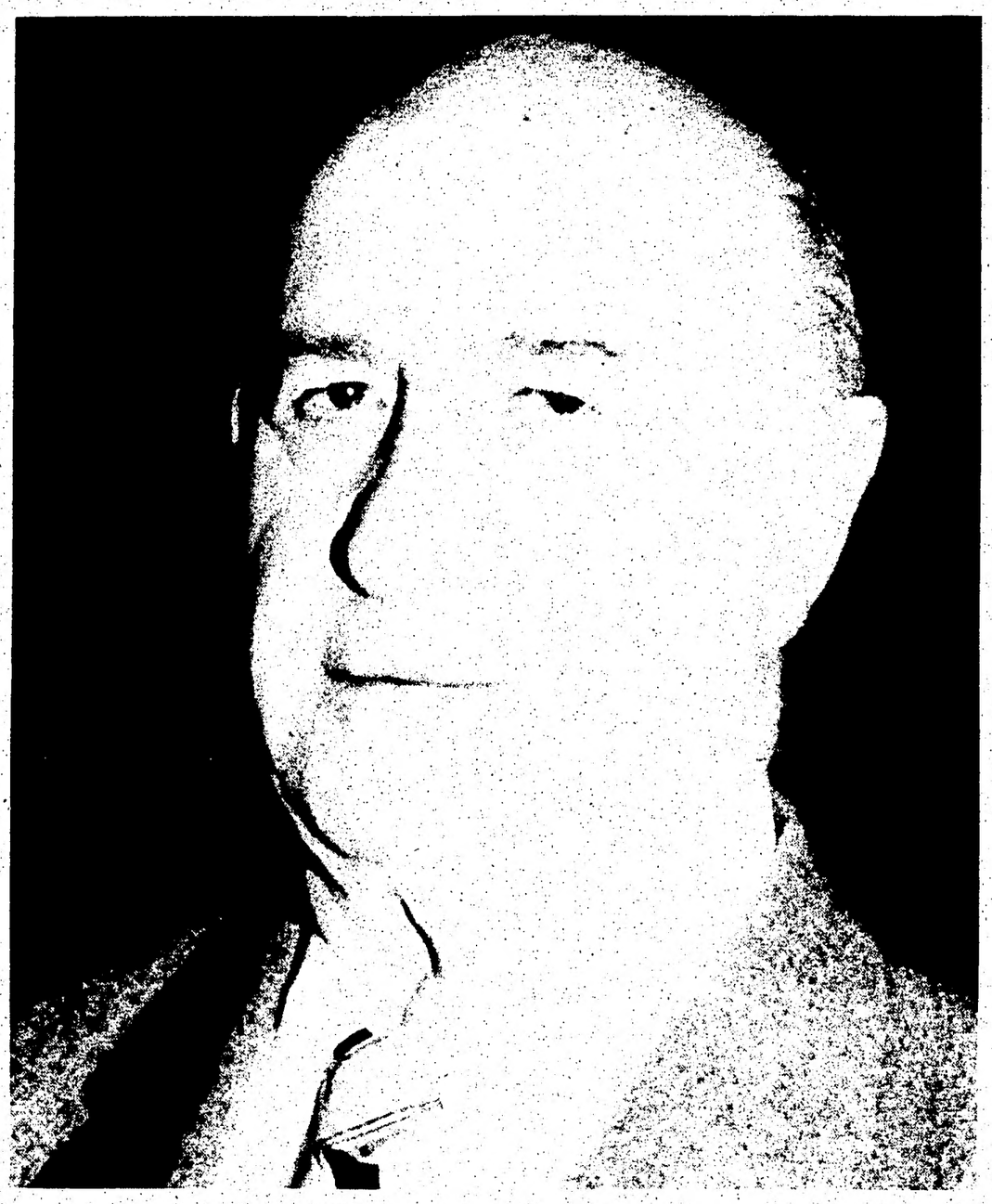
Despite the recession, we managed.

CJN: *So the JNF is doing better this year compared to previous years in terms of pledges it has received?*

Rivlin: I'm glad to tell you that as of early December, in 1993, with all the difficulties we have in Canada, the JNF will send more to Israel than last year.

CJN: *What kind of numbers are you talking about?*

Rivlin: It will be 15 per cent more in terms of cash [allocated to Israel], though there is another month to go [in the campaign].



CJN: *How does Canada compare to other Jewish communities in supporting the JNF?*

Rivlin: Canada was always one of the strongest centres of activity for the JNF. Back in 1927, Canada played a very important role not only in the life of the JNF, but in the life of the Zionist movement and the development of the yishuv (Jewish home) in what was then Palestine. Right after World War I there were three main targets for Keren Kayemet: to buy and develop the land in Emek (Valley) Jezreel; in Emek Zevulun, the area between Haifa and Acre; and in Emek Hefer, between Netanya and Hadera.

Since then, the activities of JNF Canada continue with forests and parks.

One huge undertaking. . . was to build Canada Park right after the Six Day War, on the road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. It was a national project, an investment of millions of dollars, years after the state was established. It put the JNF back in the centre of Zionist activities. It was done mainly because of the initiative and leadership of Bernard Bloomfield of Montreal, who was then the president of JNF.

CJN: *There was a lot of controversy over that park a few years ago when reporters said it was built over destroyed Arab villages.*

Rivlin: We didn't destroy the villages. They were destroyed because during the Six Day War there were all sort of activities coming out of them and they were destroyed by the Israeli army during the war. . . Yitzhak Rabin, who was then chief of staff, said, 'Look, that happened during the war.'

Prossin: And not the whole Canada Park is in controversy. It's only a portion.

Rivlin: If you go today, [you will] see Canada Park serving as a wonderful recreation area for Jews and Arabs, Christians and Muslims, as in the other parks.

I think that the jewel in the crown of JNF activities in the last few years is Galil Canada, where JNF Canada took responsibility for an essential area in the hilly Galilee. Starting with breaking through with roads, it reclaimed the land for all the villages [and dealt with] the huge problem of afforestation.

I think such a project has a double purpose. Not only is it essential and doing wonderful things, but it lets the community in Canada identify with a specific area and all the villages there. They know it is their project. Jews from Canada go to visit that area and they know that part of their energies and money are involved there.

CJN: *What towns and villages are in that area?*

Rivlin: The largest town in that area is Carmiel. The largest kibbutz in the area is Lotem, and the area around Carmiel [is surrounded by] many settlements. Carmiel, on the main road between Acre and Safad, is the centre.

[It is essential to have] more Jews in the Galilee. I can't stress the importance of it. We were trying to help [attract people through creating] a land-based infrastructure.

CJN: *What other projects is JNF Canada involved in?*

Rivlin: You have reclamation projects in the Arava not far from Eilat. If you go to Jerusalem, the wonderful gardens along the Old City wall between the Jaffa Gate and Zion Gate were built with the efforts of JNF Canada. It's called the Gardens of the Redeemers of Jerusalem.

CJN: *In North America, there have been suggestions in recent years that more of the money being raised here should be spent locally to ensure Jewish continuity and that less should go to Israel. Has that possibility entered into your long-range planning?*

Rivlin: For me as a Jew, an Israeli and a Zionist, all we [do is on behalf of] Jewish continuity and to save other Jewish people.

It is my clear understanding, belief and conviction that you cannot really build Jewish continuity without Israel being the centre because Jewish continuity is the continuity of Jewish heritage and history. Can you see it for a minute without the Bible, without the land where the Bible was written, without the values of the Bible? All those things that unite the Jewish people are in Israel. Building Jewish continuity is directly and indirectly related to Israel. If you take Jewish continuity, you will see that one of the major programs is to bring every Jewish youngster possible to Israel for a seminar or a course or to spend the summer there. I am convinced that if we do it with wisdom and vision, you can combine the two things together.

CJN: *Has the Israel/PLO accord had any impact on JNF fundraising around the world?*

Rivlin: I think it's too early [to tell]. The peace accord was signed on Sept. 13 and we haven't had even one campaign season yet and no one can tell you what the result will be. But all the Israel-based campaigns will have to direct both their activities in Israel and their appeals to world Jewry with the new horizons and new demands that are a result of the peace process.

Everyone will tell you that if you would like to see the economic future of Israel [and of our neighbors] progress, then tourism will play a most important part. And if you talk about a tourist movement of millions, you can't build such a movement concentrated only in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. You must develop a strong land base in Galilee and all over the Negev. And since we believe that tourism will increase, it is of the utmost urgency to build tourism facilities and an infrastructure.

For example, Mitzpeh Ramon is a township in a plateau of the Negev, overlooking one of the most beautiful natural craters in the world. Tourism is the only future for Mitzpeh Ramon and a [businessman] who built many hotels in Eilat said he is ready to build in Mitzpeh Ramon, but only if there is a road to it from Eilat and if [we] build a promenade overlooking the crater and if there are trees planted and recreation areas. We are now building that road from Eilat to Mitzpeh Ramon and the result is that there is already a hotel in Mitzpeh Ramon. That can be a new area for tourism.

In the Galilee there is a major project in the Hula Valley and another is a park being developed as a huge recreation area near the Lebanese border.

CJN: *What are the JNF's activities in terms of improving Israel's water supply?*

Rivlin: We are deeply involved in developing a network of water projects that will be essential if peace comes.

What we are trying to do now at a time of water shortage is [save] the rainwater that is being wasted. In the Beit Shean Valley, near the border of Jordan, you can see eight reservoirs, and there will be six more. That means the valley will get all the water it needs without taking a drop from anyone else and they will get it much cheaper than if it is brought from other places. And when a farmer can get cheap water in a world of competition, that is very important.

Prossin: JNF Canada is heavily involved in the water projects.

Rivlin: We are now building three such projects in the Negev. Along the Arava, we plan to build a network of water dams.

CJN: *With concern for ecology so strong today, to what extent are modern environmental concerns considered when planning afforestation projects in Israel?*

Rivlin: Today, to fight the desert and to increase the number of trees is a priority for many countries. What we did for the environment in Israel with afforestation and pushing the desert back is becoming an example for the world.

Today you have a consortium of the United States Forest Service, five U.S. universities and the JNF working on joint projects in arid and semi-arid zones, where ecology is key. At the end of June, Israel will host an international seminar to deal with those problems. I hope quite a few Arab countries will attend that conference.

CJN: *How many trees are planted in Israel every year?*

Rivlin: Between three and three-and-a-half million. Half of our budget goes to the Negev Desert and we are concentrating a major effort in the Negev.

Prossin: You know how we have blue boxes for recycling. Well for 92 years, the JNF has had its blue boxes to save the environment.

Rivlin: For this year on Tu b'Shvat, the Minister of the Enviroment decided that all Israeli environmental organizations will salute the JNF for its efforts in the fields of ecology and environment. And even for me, an old timer, it moved something in me.

Israel, PLO still at odds over accord's implementation

[Cont'd. from page 1]

Rabin told reporters he wanted to make sure the next meeting with Arafat ended in success.

"At the moment I am occupied with checking, whether in Oslo or other places, in order to ensure one thing: That there will not be a meeting with no results in the future.

"Last week ... we said [we would meet] in 10 days, nine days, 11 days; there is no need to stand with a stopwatch. It is more important to ensure that there is suitable understanding so the meeting indeed will be fruitful," he said.

Rabin stressed that no final decisions would be made in Oslo — the site of the drafting of the original Israel-PLO accord — but that issues would be referred back to himself and Arafat for approval.

"Even if more concrete discussions begin, the decision-makers are not in Oslo ... Everything has to come here, to be approved here and approved there [at PLO headquarters in Tunis] and only then will it be known if there are results," Rabin said.

In an apparent bid to wean the PLO from its hopes of gaining control of the crossing points, Meretz ministers made it clear on Sunday that they fully back Rabin's rejection of ceding Israeli control there.

Some PLO officials in Tunis said the organization is now proposing joint control over border crossings and demanding control over 200 square kilometers (120 sq. miles) around Jericho, down from 340 sq. km. (205 sq. miles) it originally wanted.

Moroccan monarch briefed

Until now, Israel has proposed limiting the Jericho self-rule area to the 27 sq. km. (16 sq. miles) that comprise the Jericho city limits.

PLO executive committee member Ali Ishak, however, said the Palestinian delegation would propose putting the crossing points to Gaza and Jericho under Palestinian control but allow Israel to use electronic surveillance to monitor traffic.

Meanwhile, the Rabin government appears to be making an effort to explain its position on the peace process to Arab states.

Rabin's diplomatic adviser, Jacques Neriah, made a quiet trip to Morocco during the past few days to update King Hassan on the peace process at the king's request, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said.

Israel believes it has support among Arab countries for its position. Jordan is known to back Israel and there are growing indications that Egypt does, as well. Jerusalem is hoping it can count on Cairo's support, since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has influence with Arafat.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said other Arab states were notified of Israel's position during multilateral steering committee talks in Tokyo last week.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, seen by many as the driving force behing the Oslo agreement with the PLO, voiced confidence that disputes with Yasser Arafat will ultimately be resolved.

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker recommended that the government appoint a spokesman to orchestrate its domestic public relations campaign.

He called for someone to be entrusted with concerting the government's "peace offensive" in the media, so that the public "does not fall prey to the propaganda of the Right."

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A Chanukah in New Delhi

[Cont'd. from page 1]

5,000 strong Bombay Jewish community and seen the glories of the synagogues in Cochin and Calcutta, whose Jewish populations have almost vanished — but stepping into an Israeli Chanukah in the centre of New Delhi gave us an extraordinary sense of the unity of the world-wide Jewish community.

Since India and Israel established diplomatic relations in January 1992, and particularly since Ambassador Ephraim Dowek arrived a year ago, the embassy has become a home away from home for the young Israelis who trek through the Far East in what has become a traditional "time out" after military service.

This was the second Chanukah celebration sponsored by the embassy; at Pesach, they also held a seder at the synagogue. "We put up notices in the youth hostels — anywhere we think we'll find the kids," Hagit Kidron-Kaftori, an embassy employee, explained. "They find out by word of mouth. You should have been here at Pesach — it was wonderful."

"We came here to celebrate," said Lior Heskel, who had been trekking for a month in Nepal before arriving in India, after his three years of naval service. "It's Chanukah," chimed in Ilanit Finkelstein and Michal Yaron, who had joined up with Heskel in Katmandu. "It's our first contact with the local Jewish people — we've met a lot of Jews!"

Approximately 10,000 young Israelis pass through India each year, Ambassador Dowek estimates. A popular route for their trek, which usually lasts about six months, begins in Nepal ("there are waiters in Katmandu who speak Hebrew," Kidron-Kaftori said), and continues through India to Thailand and Singapore.

Following their military service, some even disappear into monasteries for a few months, Kidron-Kaftori explained. "There are no phones in these places; we help to keep them in touch with their families."

Home and family were on the minds of several of the young Israelis at the Chanukah party. "I miss my mother," Einat Nahum, a former pilot driver in the Israel Defence Force, said. "If you're going to write something, say I love her very much and I miss her very much."

"Send my love to my family," Ilanit Finkelstein added.

"May I say something patriotic?" Rachmany Galit, who served as an IDF nurse, asked.

"I've been to many places and there's no place like my country. I wouldn't trade it for anyplace else."

CJN editor Patricia Rucker recently visited India at the invitation of the Government of India Tourist Office, with the co-operation of Air India, the Oberoi Hotels and the Travel Corporation of India.

Young Israelis celebrate Chanukah in the New Delhi synagogue. Seen here are (from left to right) Rachmany Galit, Einat Nahum, unidentified, Lior Heskel, Michal Yaron and Ilanit Finkelstein. [Patricia Rucker photo]

Do you know them?

CONNAISSEZ-VOUS L'UNE DE CES PERSONNES?

Si vous savez où l'uné ou pluslèurs des personnes mentionnées cidessous, résident actuellement, veuillez en aviser les Services canadiens d'assistance aux immigrants juifs, 5151, chemin de la Côte Ste-Catherine, Montréal, Québec H3W 1M6, Téléphone: (514) 342-9351.

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?

If you know where any of the persons listed below are presently residing, please inform the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 5151 Cote Ste. Catherine Rd., Montreal, P.Q, H3W 1M6, Telepone: (514) 342-9351.

1. **BERLIND, Khaim** - born between 1907-1910 in Zguritsa Village, Moldavia. Father of Khaim and Ester. Arrived in Montreal in late 1920s.
2. **BITSENKO, Mikhailo Josipovich and Family** - born in Western Ukraine. Came to Canada, possibly Montreal, in 1926.
3. **BRAND, Izaak** - born in 1921 in Shedlitz, Poland. Son of Moisey Brand and uncle of Lena Chernyakova Brand and has two daughters. Last known residence was on Davignon, in Dollard Des Ormeaux in 1978.
4. **EVIN, Lev (Lionya)** - born between 1932-1934. Husband of Ida and father of Arik and Nelya. Came to Canada in 1980. Once resided on Lucerne Road, in Montreal. He is an engineer.
5. **GANDELMAN, Nachem** - born in Russia. Resided on Esplanade Avenue, in Montreal 15-25 years ago. He is believed to be a musician.
6. **GUREVICH, Borech-Aysick and Family** - born in Belarussia. Came to Montreal (date unknown). Father of Ethel and Peshe, and brother of Feyge Gelfand.
7. **JAKUBOWICZ, Dawid, Ryfka or relatives** - once resided at Villa Tonowka, Ulica Norwida 5, corner of Zamenhoffa Srodborow in Warsaw, Poland. Believed to have come to Canada before town was taken by the Germans in World War II.
8. **RINZLER, Morris (Moishe), daughters of** - Morris was born in Bukovina. Believed to have resided in Brooklyn, New York around 1920. Son of Isaac and Felicia and husband of Esther. One daughter's name is **Miriam**.
9. **ROSEN, Annie** - born **Blacherman** around 1934. Daughter of Abraham Blacherman (born in 1892) and Ruchla Czapik (born in 1895), and wife of David Rosen (born around 1925). Believed to have left for Toronto in 1955 on board the boat "Franconia".
10. **ROSENBERG, Peter** - born September 27, 1946 in Timisoara, Rumania. Son of Bernat and Magdalena (born Rosenthal), husband of Gizela (Gisele), and father of Catherine (born between 1970-1973 in Los Angeles). Last known residence is in the Los Angeles area in 1975. He is an engineer.
11. **SELDON, Gerald** - born Jeremiah Selkowitz on December 27, 1929 in Manhattan, New York. Son of Samuel Selkowitz and Ernestine Eichenbaum. Attended the High School of Montreal in 1940. Resided on Sherbrooke Street in 1944.
12. **SIMBERG, Mera, children of** - Mera was born **Miliyavskaya** in Romny, Ukraine in the 1900s. Came to Canada in 1920. Wife of Boris. There are two daughters, the eldest is Zlata.
13. **SOKOLSKIY, Abram** - born in Volkovysk, Poland between 1920-1921. Came to Montreal in 1930. Son of Rebecca, and brother of Mary, Paya, and Yakob.
14. **SWIRSKY, Ronald** - born in Canada between 1935-1940. Son of Isaak (Ernest) and Berta Goldman, and brother of Melvin. Once resided on Pinedale Avenue in Cote St. Luc, Montreal.
15. **WEINSTEIN, Igor** - born in Kiev. Son of Ivan and Susanna.
16. **ZHELYANSKY, Ishye** - born in Malye Salenchniki, Lithuania. Son of Beynash and brother of Khaim, Khon, Masha, and Dvoyra.

World

Zeitz hopeful that justice will be done

By RON CSILLAG

Elaine Zeitz

TORONTO — Elaine Zeitz doesn't seem like a woman who is engaged to be married.

There have been no parties, no gifts or rings, no registration for china and flatware. There's been little joy.

Although a broad smile sometimes crosses her face, lighting up her piercing, dark brown eyes, her lip is stiff with resolve, a result of what she calls "a war — with blood and guts all over the place."

When your fiance is Jonathan Pollard, the language tends to be strong and direct.

And Zeitz, a 39-year-old educator of children with learning disabilities who lives in Toronto, is beyond arguing the legal nuances of Pollard's case. For her, and no doubt her betrothed, the only thing that matters now is the ticking of the clock.

Especially now. News is rife that U.S. President Bill Clinton is considering commuting Pollard's life sentence to time already served.

But the news is tinged by reports that insiders in the Justice Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, as well as advisors to the president, are urging Clinton to deny Pollard clemency, despite a personal appeal to the president from Yitzhak Rabin and a recent meeting on the matter between U.S. Attorney-General Janet Reno and her Israeli counterpart, David Libai.

Nevertheless, supporters of Pollard are being asked to inundate the White House with calls, faxes and letters, urging mercy from a president who received 88 percent of the Jewish vote. Rumor has it that presidential announcements of this sort usually come at Christmas time or on New Year's Eve.

Zeitz has recently returned from Israel, where she faced a media barrage, with talk shows and front-page newspaper articles covering her appeal for the former U.S. Navy analyst, convicted in 1986 of spying for the Jewish state. She encountered "an outpouring of love" for Pollard.

She's been engaged to Pollard — secretly — for three years, but the news was leaked recently by Amnon Dror, head of the Israel Committee for the Release of Pollard — a slip of the tongue, he explained.

That's of little importance now and it has not detracted the steely Zeitz from her mission.

"We've been committed to each other for a long time," she told the *CJN* in an hour-long interview last week. "We've had plans to marry for a long time. And we plan to live in Israel.

"But I want to debunk two myths surrounding Jonathan. The first is that he's superman. The second is that the prison he's in now is some sort of summer camp.

"We've reached a critical juncture. Jonathan can't hang on forever."

For many, it's been amazing he's hung on this long.

Pollard's nightmare began in 1985, when he pleaded guilty to passing to Israel classified documents revealing Iraq's progess in building a nuclear device, and German shipments of poison gas to Arab countries. He was said to be motivated by concern for the Jewish state, which was being denied the information.

For five months, a grand jury studied the file. In the end, Pollard was charged with one count of passing secrets to an ally.

He then agreed to a plea bargain; in a promised returned for leniency and medical attention for his then wife and co-accused, Anne, he submitted to an in-camera hearing.

We may never know what happened in that hearing. But Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment, with no chance for parole, and was shipped off to a psychiatric facility in Springfield, Ill., where he spent 18 months in solitary confinement.

From there, it was on to the maximum-security federal penitentiary in Marion, Ill. Confined three storeys underground in the notorious K unit — the only American prison unit termed inhumane by Amnesty International — Pollard spent 23 hours a day in his solitary cell and was allowed four 15-minute telephone calls a week, limited to his parents, sister, lawyer, rabbi and Zeitz.

Just last June, he was shipped in a sealed van to the medium-security prison in Butner, N.C., where he was welcomed, Zeitz says, with "a barrage of anti-Semitic insults and psychological harassment" from prison authorities, not to mention the 49 hardened inmates with whom he shares quarters.

Pollard went from being completely sedentary in Marion to doing back-breaking manual labor in a textile plant for up to 14 hours a day. Zeitz says he's been coughing up blood and fibres from the plant and suffers from a bleeding ulcer.

Zeitz too has had her odyssey. She will not discuss her relationship with Pollard prior to 1990, allowing only that they "reconnected" that summer, when Zeitz was working in Israel's justice department and teaching English.

A friend, Shifra Hoffman, founder of Victims of Arab Terror, showed her an old newspaper clipping, which asked people to write to American Jewish prisoner Jonathan Pollard. Zeitz responded, and soon received a packet of information.

"What I read overwhelmed me," she recalls. "I was shocked and horrified. I couldn't believe anything like that could happen in the United States.

"But his letter wasn't bitter. He expressed an enormous love for Israel. That's how we connected."

The exchange of mail continued until the Navy stepped in. After just five letters from Pollard, Zeitz received no more, and there have been none since the fall of 1990. By contrast, Zeitz estimates she's written Pollard over 1,400 letters.

On the plus side, the two speak almost every day. The calls are monitored by naval intelligence. Pollard's telephone privileges are routinely interfered with and can be revoked at any time.

Zeitz also won't say how often she's visited Pollard, admitting only that she last saw him a few weeks ago. While his morale is good, his physical condition is not.

For Zeitz and thousands of Pollard supporters around the world, including Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, and Chaim Herzog, former president of Israel, the whole affair simply stinks. While no one doubts Pollard committed a crime and deserved punishment, there are few who consider his plight fair.

Questions are many: Why did Pollard get life when those caught spying for *enemies*, not friends of the U.S., have received lesser sentences; why did prosecutors break their promise of leniency in return for Pollard's forfeiture of a trial; why did the Israeli Embassy in Washington fail to protect Pollard; why was former U.S. secretary of defence Caspar Weinberger allowed to submit a sentencing report accusing Pollard of treason, with which he was never charged; and why is Pollard still considered so dangerous to U.S. national security?

Even in the appeal, the lone dissenting judge called the case a "fundamental miscarriage of justice."

Zeitz reserves a measure of praise for Yitzhak Rabin for pressing the matter with Clinton. "The prime minister acknowledged Jonathan is a soldier of Israel merely by asking for him," she says. "If Rabin is unable to bring Jonathan home from friends, and those friends [the U.S.] are investigating the fate of the missing Israeli servicemen, what hope is there for the servicemen when they're held by enemies?

"I'm hopeful and optimistic for two reasons: we know everything built on a lie has to collapse, and my final consolation is that Hashem has a direct role in events.

"Sooner or later, justice will be done."

Zeitz is fond of quoting a passage from the book of Samuel, which for her speaks volumes about the grassroots groundswell for Pollard: "And the people redeemed Jonathan, and he did not die."

ייִדיש ווינקל

YIDDISH CORNER

רעדאַגירט פון ש. ליפשיץ

פאַרדינטער כבוד פאַר חזן לואי דאַנטאָ

אונדזער שטאָט טאָראָנטאָ וועט באַטראַכט אַלס איינער פון די וויכטיקסטע קולטורעלע און מוזיקאַלישע צענטערן אויפן אַמעריקאַנער קאָנטינענט. יידישע שרייבערס, פֿאָעטן, אַרטיסטן און זינגערס פאַרנעמען אַן אַנגעזען אָרט אינעם קולטור-לעבן אין שטאָט.

עס איז נישט איבערטריבן צו זאָגן, אַז חזן **לואי דאַנטאָ**, פון דער בית-אמת — בית יהודה שוהל האָט, אין די יאָרן וואָס ער איז מיט אונדז אין טאָראָנטאָ, געמאַכט אַ גאָר פיינעם בייטראָג צו באַריכערן און באַשיינען די פאַרשידנאַרטיקע קולטור-אונטערנעמונגען פון צענדליקער יידישע — און אויך אָפט — נישט-יידישע אָרגאַניזאַציעס בי אונדז אין שטאָט און אויך איבערן לאַנד.

זיין רעפוטאַציע באַגרענעצט זיך נישט בלויז צו טאָראָנטאָ און קאַנאַדע. ער ווערט באַטראַכט ווי אַן אָנגעזעענער קינסטלער איבער אַ סך שטעט און ישובים אויסער קאַנאַדע. ער איז מיט גרויס דער-פֿאָלג אויפגעטראָטן אין די פאַראייניקטע שטאַטן, אייראָפּע און מדינת ישראל. ער האָט מיט גרויס דערפאָלג געזונגען פאַר הונדערטער יידן אין רוס-לאַנד און אַנדערע מזרח-אייראָפּייאישע לענדער, וואו ער איז אויפגענומען געווארן מיט ענטוזיאַזם און לויב פאַרן נחת-רוח, וואָס ער האָט זיי פאַר-שאַפן מיט זיין חזנות און פרעכטיקן געזאַנג.

האָט טאַקע זיין שוהל — בית אמת-בית יהודה — דורכגעפירט אַ גאַנצע סוף-וואָך פייערונג לכבוד זייער באַליבטן חזן, בי וועלכער עס איז אָנגע-מערקט געווארן דער 20-טער יובילי, זינט חזן דאַנטאָ איז פאַרבונדן מיט דער שוהל. די פייערונג האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן פרייטיק אָוונט, דעם 29-טן אקטאָבער, בי וועלכער עס איז אויפגעטראָטן דער באַקאַנטער טאָראָנטער מחזיקער און קאָנדוקטאָר בען שטיינבערג. ער האָט געזעצט וועגן דעם אור-שפרונג פון זמירות. שבת אינדערפרי, דעם 30-טן, ביים דאַוונען, איז אויפגעטראָטן אַלס גאַסט-חזן ר' חיים ניימאַן פון דעטראָיט.

אַ פרעכטיקער קאָנצערט לכבוד דעם בעל-יובל איז פאָרגעקומען שבת אָוונט, מיט דער באַטיילי-קונג פון נאָרט יאָרק פילהאַרמאָנישן אָרקעסטער און דרei כאָרן פון האַלי בלאָסאָם, בית תקוה און בית אמת.

זונטיק פרי איז געקומען אַ ריזיקער עולם צו דעם פייערלעכן פרישטיק, אָראַנזשירט פון בית-אמת „בראָדערהוד". דער זאַל איז געווען איבער-געפאָקט. צענדליקער האָבן שוין נישט געקענט אַריינגיין צוליב מאַנגל אין פּלאַץ. בי דער געלעגן-הייט האָבן דעם חזן דאַנטאָ באַגריסט פאָרשטייער פון קאַנאַדער יידישן קאָנגרעס, פון קאָמיטעט פאַר יידיש און פון אַ רי אַנדערע יידישע אָרגאַניזאַציעס אין שטאָט. אַלע האָבן אָנגעווויזן אויף דעם אומאָפּ-שאַצבאַרן בייטראָג וואָס חזן דאַנטאָ מאַכט צו די טעטיקייטן לטובת יידיש און יידישער קולטור. ער איז אַלעמאָל גרייט פריוויליק אָנטייל צו נעמען אין יידישע קולטור-אונטערנעמונגען. במשך פון 14 יאָר איז ער געווען דער מחזיקאַלישער קאָאָרדינאַטאָר פון די זומערדיקע קאָנצערטן, וואָס דער יידיש-קא-מיטעט פירט דורך אין ערל בעילס פּאַרק. ער האָט געהאָלפן פלאָנירן און צוגרייטן די פראָגראַמען, איז וועלכע ער האָט אַ סך מאָל אויך אָנטייל גענומען מיט זיין פרעכטיקן זינגען. און צו דעם אַלעם איז חזן דאַנטאָ אַ ליבער און האַרציקער יידישער פאָלקס-מענטש.

אין אַ רירנדיקער רעדע האָט חזן דאַנטאָ באַ-דאַנקט אַלעמען פאַר דעם גרויסן כבוד, וואָס איז אים צוגעטיילט געווארן. ער האָט אויסגעדריקט די האָפנונג וויטער צו דינען דער שוהל און דעם גאַנצן ישוב אויף וויפל זיינע כוחות וועלן אים טראָגן.

חזן דאַנטאָ האָט כשר פאַרדינט דעם כבוד, וואָס איז אים צוגעטיילט געווארן.

13 מיליאָן יידן אין דער וועלט

די צאָל יידן אין דער וועלט באַטרעפט הינט-צו-טאָג 12 מיליאָן 850 טויזנט נפשות, דערפון 4 מיליאָן און 79 טויזנט אין ישראל; 5 מיליאָן און 600 טויזנט אין די פאַראייניקטע שטאַטן; אַ צווי מיליאָן אין געווועזענעם ראַטן-פאַרבאַנד און אין אַנדערע- יידישע קהילות. די צאָל יידן בי אונדז אין קאַנאַדע וועט געשאַצט אויף אַרום 350 טויזנט.

אין יאָר 2000 וועט די יידישע באַפעלקערונג אין ישראל דערגיין צווישן 5 ביז 6 מיליאָן נפשות, בערך אַ העלפט פון אַלע יידן אין דער וועלט, און ישראל וועט פאַרוואַנדלט ווערן אינעם גרעסטן יידישן צענטער אין דער וועלט.

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NAME GAME

There is a story in almost every Jewish surname and Toronto lawyer FRED M. CATZMAN has been researching their origins over the past few years. Mr Catzman reports on his research in The CJN.

MADESKER

Michael Madesker of Toronto has contributed a useful commentary on my suggested origin of the name Slavinsky. He suggests an alternative source.

'Slava is a feminine given name from the Russian word for glory. It is comparable to Gloria as a girl's name in English.

From it derives the matronymic names Slavin and Slavinsky.

To reciprocate this thoughtfulness, Madesker denotes a person from Madejki, near Vilna, although I am confident my corrersspondent already knows that since he did not ask.

SCHUSTER — BUTNIK

The maker of footwear in Yiddish is Schuster, a name made famous by comedian Frank Schuster and Superman creator Joe Schuster.

Less well-known is the Slavic equivalent, Butnik. More memorable is the German alternative, Schubert.

The News in Brief

Rabin to Address CJC Meet

MONTREAL — Canadian Jewish Congress's national executive will meet in Israel from Dec. 27 to Jan. 5. Participants will hear remarks from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Canada's ambassador to Israel, Norman Spector; Tel Aviv University president Yoram Dinstein; new Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert; Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu; Israel's finance minister, Bega Shohat and Ontario Premier Bob Rae, who will lead a business mission to Israel at the same time. Also scheduled is a visit to a West Bank settlement and meetings with Palestinian representatives.

* * *

Merchant of Venice Issue Resolved

OTTAWA — The Ottawa Board of Education has moved the teaching of *The Merchant of Venice* from grades 9 and 10 to senior levels and has introduced guidelines for the teaching of Shakespeare's controversial play. The action marks the end of a nearly year-long effort by the community relations committee of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa to move the play's teaching to grades 11, 12 and 13, where students are presumably better equipped to handle the work's sensitive racial element. The Ottawa board joins other Ontario school boards which have moved the play to senior grades, including those from Peel Region, Wellington and Waterloo county. The Ottawa board's action came after complaints from Jewish students about the way the play had been taught.

* * *

Homolka in Hebrew

TORONTO — Two Hebrew-language newspapers published in the United States and available in Canada have published details of the Karla Homolka manslaughter trial that might contravene a court-ordered ban on details of the case. About 2,000 copies of the two newspapers, *Maariv* and *Yediot Achronot*, are distributed in the Toronto area. They are also available in Ottawa and Montreal.

* * *

Applications for SCI-TECH

TORONTO — Applications are now being accepted for SCI-TECH, the Technion's third annual summer science and technology research program for high school students from around the world. The program, which will run from July 18 to August 18, is geared toward students with an exceptional interest in science and technology. Participants, half of whom will be Israeli, will conduct research in small groups under the supervision of Technion faculty members and graduate students. The program fee is U.S. $2,150, which includes room and board, tuition, tours and health insurance. Partial scholarships are available. The deadline for registration is March 1, 1994. Application forms and information may be obtained from the Canadian Technion Society, 970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206, Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B6. Tel. (416) 789-4545, fax (416) 789-0255.

* * *

Israel-Morocco Ties Said Close

WASHINGTON — Israel and Morocco are reportedly on the verge of expanding their ties. While the expansion would not create diplomatic relations between them, the two countries are supposedly set to announce economic measures, including air, telephone and mail links. The Israeli Embassy here said last week it could confirm the general direction of the information reported in *The New York Times* about the agreements. The article said Morocco's King Hassan "has decided to broaden his country's economic cooperation with Israel in a major step toward the eventual normalization of relations."

* * *

FBI to Aid Germans

WASHINGTON — Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director Louis Freeh last week ordered an investigation of Americans accused of assisting German neo-Nazis. Freeh said that during his recent trip to Germany, German law enforcement authorities requested he look into American involvement in the dissemination of neo-Nazi materials. The investigation is likely to focus upon Gary Lauck of Lincoln, Neb. German officials have reportedly identified Lauck as the most important supplier of Nazi propaganda to German neo-Nazis.

* * *

Likud Denies Bibi Charges

JERUSALEM — The Likud Party last week denied charges that its leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, misused funds he raised for Jewish settlers at gatherings in New York last September. According to *The Jerusalem Post*, the allegations against Netanyahu were made by Jack Avital, an officer of the New York-based World Committee for Israel. Avital charged that Netanyahu used nearly $200,000 to help cover the party's deficit instead of directing the funds to the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. The Likud has countered that the amount in question was much less than $200,000 and that it was earmarked for Likud. The party's legal adviser, Eitan Haberman, reportedly said the money helped pay for a demonstration in Jerusalem that was co-sponsored by Likud and other groups who were against the Palestinian self-rule accord. Other committee officers have disassociated themselves from Avital's charges, saying they represent only his personal views.

* * *

Israel Files UN Complaint

TEL AVIV — Israel has filed a complaint with the United Nations against a Finnish unit of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, charging the unit refused humanitarian aid to an Israeli tank crew that came under fire in southern Lebanon. The complaint was based on a recent incident in which an Israeli tank was hit by a missile fired by members of Hezbollah. The commander of the tank was killed, and several men were wounded. An Israeli drove the damaged tank to a UNIFIL post manned by Finnish soldiers and asked to use the radio to contact the Israel Defence Force. The Finnish soldiers refused on the grounds that their radio could not make contact with the IDF network, the complaint said. The complaint described the Finnish soldiers' reactions as callous and not in conformity with the humanitarian mission of UNIFIL, which has been in Lebanon since 1978.

* * *

E.U. Upgrades Israel Relations

BRUSSELS — The leaders of the 12-member European Union have agreed to upgrade economic relations with Israel, a move that will give Israeli companies broader latitude for trading with Europe. The European Union, the new name of the European Community, also reaffirmed its support for the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian self-rule accord. The announcements came at the group's end-of-year summit, held here last week. The economic agreement will establish closer ties between Israel and the E.U. in the areas of trade, science, and research and development. Since 1975, Israel has had a free-trade agreement with the countries of what was then called the Common Market.

* * *

Belgrade Jews Seek Support

ROME — The Jewish community in Belgrade needs the moral as well as material support of Jews worldwide as it struggles to carry on an active Jewish life against the background of war in the former Yugoslavia, according to a representative of the community. Tamara Stainer-Popovic, director of cultural and educational activities at the Belgrade Jewish Community, made her appeal at a weekend seminar of the World Confederation of Jewish Communities, held in Rome. She said the Belgrade community, the largest in the former Yugoslavia, currently has about 2,000 members ranging from young children to elderly Holocaust survivors. The community is reportedly reopening a Jewish kindergarten and is planning a Jewish Sunday school program. In addition, she said, a Belgrade man, Izak Eigenbach, is being trained in Israel to be a rabbi and is expected to take up his position in about one year.

* * *

Precious Judaica Stolen

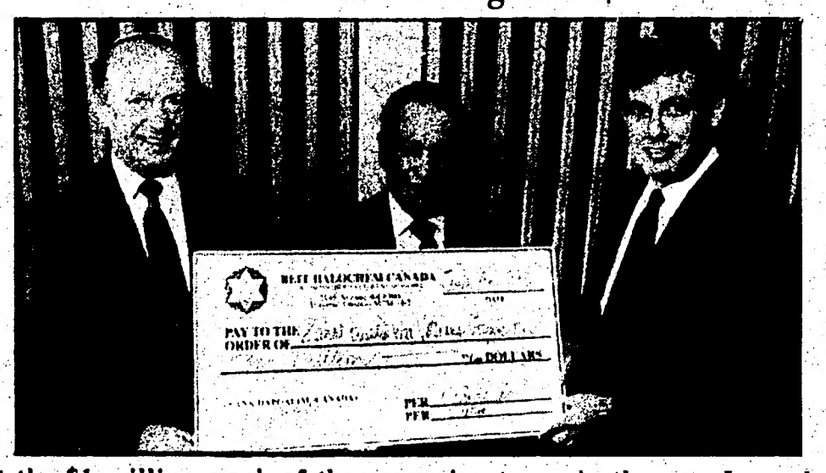
BUDAPEST — Thieves absconded with millions of dollars' worth of Jewish ritual objects from the Jewish museum here earlier this month. The pieces stolen were described as "extremely precious," and included old books, silver candelabras and other silver items. Police later discovered that the museum's electronic security system had been disconnected. It was also noted that the museum was very poorly guarded. The museum is located next to the Dohany Street Synagogue in the old Jewish quarter.

* * *

$185 Million for Syria

WASHINGTON — A week after winning an invitation to meet with President Bill Clinton, Syria has gained an economic aid package from Europe. Jewish leaders here expressed anger and disappointment about a European Parliament vote last week to give $185 million in economic aid to Syria. Some Jewish leaders said after the vote that it would have been better if the parliament had waited a few weeks to see if Syrian President Hafez Assad lived up to his most recent promises to allow Syrian Jews to leave the country.

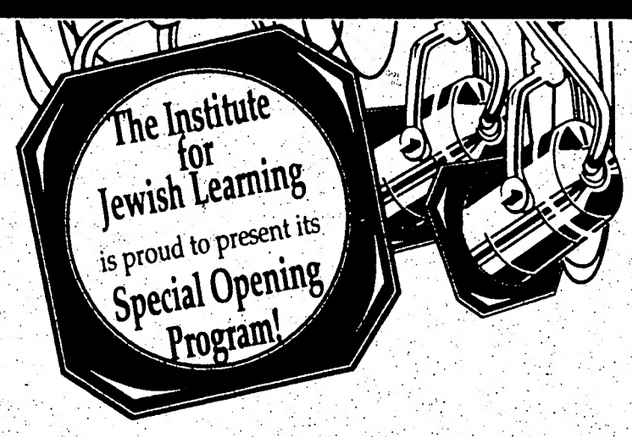
Beit Halochem Canada is Closing in on $2-million Goal



At the $1-million mark of the campaign to equip the new Jerusalem Rehabilitation Centre, a cheque was presented to Executive Director Shai Schechter (r.) by founder Bernie Weinstein and Fundraising Chairman Alex Eisen.

Advt. Advt.

James Dean Meets Cain & Abel



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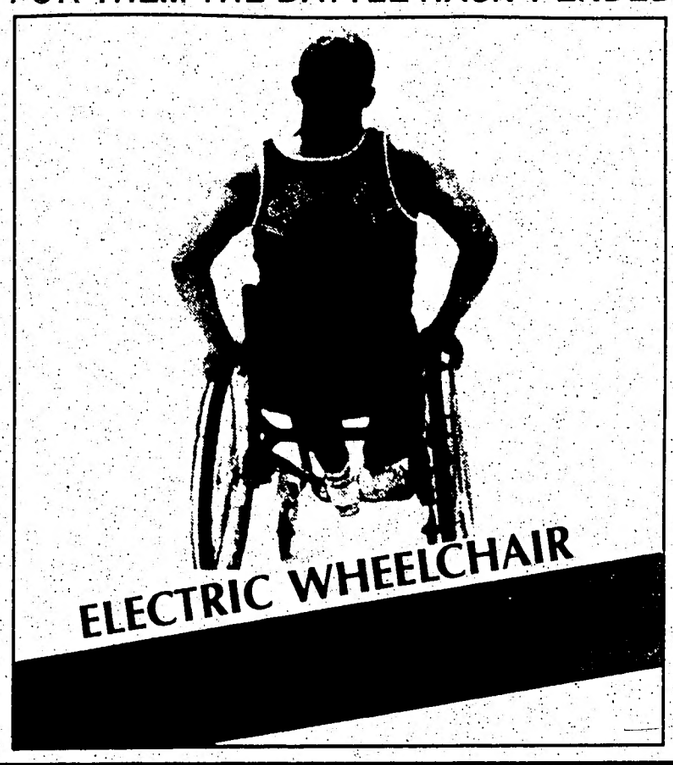

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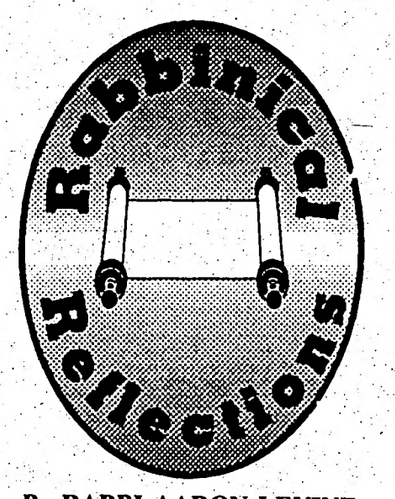

By RABBI AARON LEVINE

In this week's sidrah we read concerning Yissachar, "And he saw restfulness that it was good . . . and he bent his shoulder to beat the load (of Torah)."

Asks the Chofetz Chaim: Torah study is as "sweet as honey. What kind of burden or yoke are we talking about?" He answers with a parable.

A wealthy diamond dealer travelled to a distant country to buy the merchandise he needed. He calculated his expenses and determined that he needed 3,000 rubles for buying gems and 400 for trip expenses.

After completing his business he was left with 200 rubles for his return. As he was about to leave he was approached by a merchant who offered him some precious stones for an unbelievably low price.

"All I have left is the money for my return trip," replied the dealer.

The merchant urged him to look at the stones to see what a bargain he was offering. When he saw the gems, the dealer stared in disbelief.

"How can you offer me these diamonds which are worth thousands of rubles for such a low price?" exclaimed the dealer.

The merchant explained that false rumors forced him to dispose of the diamonds immediately or else he would lose his whole fortune.

"Take them at any price," he said desperately, "I can't be caught with them."

The dealer was in a dilemma. On one hand it was a bargain of a lifetime. On the other, he was used to travelling in comfort, staying in the best hotels, and dining on the best food. If he used his remaining money he would have to forego all of those comforts and would undergo great hardships and discomfort. In the end he decided he could not pass up the deal. The trip was only a short and temporary discomfort and the benefits of the bargain would last a long time.

"But all I have is 200 rubles. At the very least I need a few rubles for travelling. All I can give you is 190 rubles."

"Done," said the merchant, and the diamonds changed hands.

The dealer set out on foot to return home. He travelled in the back of a dirty wagon, slept on the floor of the inns, and subsisted on coarse bread and water.

At the final inn, he was recognized by another wealthy merchant who glanced questioningly at him. "Aren't you the wealthy diamond dealer from our town? What are you doing sleeping on the floor and eating like the poor?"

Ther dealer explained what happened, and showed the gems he had bought. The man acknowledged his unbelievable deal.

"But how can you tolerate living like this? Doesn't it bother you to deprive yourself of the basic comforts and of the food to which you are used?"

"I'll tell you the truth," the dealer responded. "It truly depresses me at times, but as soon as that happens, I gaze upon the diamonds and I am immediately heartened."

So it is with those who shoulder the burden of a life of Torah study. At times the going can get tough. There may be many deprivations. One cannot pamper oneself with the luxuries of this world which may deter and distract one from the task at hand. But studying Torah will be rewarded in eternity with unimaginable spiritual bliss.

When the going gets tough one must remember that our sojourn in this world is only a short and temporary one. It is worth bearing the discomfort in order to be assured of cashing in on a lifetime of Torah study which far surpasses in value the largest and most exquisite gems in the world. May we merit to be enumerated among the Yissachars of our day!

Vatican, Israel set to establish ties

NEW YORK (JTA) — The agreement establishing formal diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel, expected to be signed at the end of this month, is said to cover a range of issues, from the status of Jerusalem to anti-Semitism.

The agreement, which Israeli and Vatican negotiators have kept under tight wraps, is also believed to contain provisions for the legal standing of the Catholic Church in Israel and to allow the Catholic Church jurisdiction over matters related to Catholics' personal status, including marriage and conversion.

Sources said that personal envoys of the two governments will be the first diplomats to officially represent their governments in the other's country.

An exchange of ambassadors holding full diplomatic credentials is expected to take place within several weeks of the signing.

That represents a compromise between Israel, which wanted an immediate full exchange, and the Vatican, which preferred the lower-level exchange initially, said sources.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry representatives who have been negotiating with their Vatican counterparts in a joint commission since July 1992 have long been pressing for an agreement to be signed by the end of this month.

Until last week, Vatican representatives were insisting on a deadline of the end of January, Israeli sources said.

Now it seems that the Vatican has agreed to conclude the process by Dec. 31.

A small ceremony is expected to take place at the Vatican on Dec. 30, followed by a full signing later that day in Jerusalem.

Avi Granot, counselor for church affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, said the symbolism of establishing formal diplomatic ties in 1993 was a significant factor.

"To end 1993 with a bang is nice, since it has been a very historical year in regard to the Middle East.

"It will be nice to end it with the first time in history that the Vatican and Israel established full diplomatic relations," he said.

In the view of Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, the Vatican also would like to see full and formal diplomatic ties by the end of 1993 so celebrations can coincide with the 30th anniversary of the visit to Jerusalem of Pope Paul VI.

Pope Paul, who visited Israel Jan. 5-7, 1964, was the first pontiff to visit the Holy Land, according to a JTA report of his trip.

The Pope was greeted by then-President Zalman Shazar, although Israel's Chief Rabbi, Yitzhak Nissim, refused to meet with him.

The signing of the Israeli-Vatican agreement is expected to be followed shortly by a visit to the Jewish state by the current Pope, John Paul II.

A significant aspect of the agreement is that it contains no reference to the final status of Jerusalem, said Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee.

"That the Vatican is acknowledging that it's not within their sovereignty to decide is an enormous change," he said.

The Holy See in 1948 called for international, joint rule over Jerusalem, a demand it dropped in 1968.

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Front Line

Extremists catch Israeli government off guard

By YESHAYAHU ANUG

The increase of Hamas terrorism and the reappearance of bloody Jewish counter terror has dominated the political scene in Israel during the past fortnight, catching the government unprepared to handle the situation either militarily or politically.

Yeshayahu Anug

For a while, official opposition to the peace process allowed the extremists to dictate the agenda. Then the Likud leadership changed tactics and deplored Jewish terror, but used Arab terrorist acts to promote a sense of insecurity and gloom. The situation was not enhanced by the broadly criticized intervention of President Ezer Weizman. A delicate moment for a government whose support in the Knesset is not too reliable.

How was public opinion affected by this confusing situation? When the improbable handshake on the White House lawn hit the screens over two months ago, few Israelis reacted rationally. Later, as the sight of Rabin meeting Arafat became a common feature of our days, people got used to the novelty and even started to assimilate the hitherto distrusted prospects of peace. But when Arab terror ran amok and Jewish counter terror raised its ugly head, a debilitating sense of fatalism once again darkened the outlook.

The results of unpublished polling show that despite the many attempts of the opposition to discredit the government, support for the peace process, though somewhat diminished, is still there. Israelis react to the events more maturely than the various politicians give them credit for.

This was not affected even by the apparent stalemate of the Rabin-Arafat meeting Dec. 12. During the meeting Arafat demanded excessive symbols of statehood. His arguments were stonewalled by Rabin. Their next meeting, to be held in Cairo by the time this column shall be before you, will be decisive for the continuation of the process. Rabin and Arafat know their failure to reach a compromise on Dec. 12 cannot be repeated 10 days later.

It is a tricky moment for both leaders. They are aware, particularly Arafat, of the diminishing support for their policies and feel that to reanimate their respective constituencies, they must demonstrate unyielding steadfastness. Yet brinkmanship can not be practiced endlessly. It now looks as if Arafat, the much weaker partner, after having shown his constituency how inflexible he can be, may now lower his demands and settle for a compromise. And it should be in Rabin's self-interest to help him.

The bumpy course of the Israel-PLO accord can not be attributed solely to the vague provisions of the Oslo talks. As we have pointed out repeatedly, these had to be open-ended to mark a new start. But while Israel acted wisely by helping the PLO play a positive role in the peace process, that opportunity was almost wasted by the Palestinians when they appeared unprepared to assume the new responsibilities and at the same time much too eager to obtain more than was offered by the accord itself.

But the biggest sticking point of the present Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is that Israel will have to be more forthcoming than ever before. This practical consideration will never be accepted by those who continue to preach the primacy of Greater Eretz Israel, and will not be understood by those who genuinely believe in the divine right of Israel to rule over the territories against the will of nearly two million Arabs.

And there is yet another lesson of the last three months in which the theoretical Oslo formula underwent its first practical test on the harsh terrain of mideastern reality. Its implementation will either be much faster than five years, or break down much sooner for lack of continuous public support in both camps.

Only if Israelis and Palestinians feel the benefits of an emerging peace, and not just be alarmed by its costs, will their leaders be able to continue building layer after layer of a new relationship. If the mini-crisis created by the failure to meet the Dec. 13 deadline is understood as the warning signal it was, it will be resolved and even accellerate the pace of further progress.

Spielberg takes calculated risk with Schindler's List

By TOM TUGEND

Steven Spielberg, just past his 46th birthday, is the most successful filmmaker in the history of motion pictures.

Four of the films he directed are among the all-time top 10 hits: His *Jurassic Park* is the highest-grossing film ever, with his *E.T.* in second place.

Spielberg's latest movie, *Schindler's List*, represents a radical change and a calculated risk.

Based on the book by Thomas Keneally, the film tells the story of Oskar Schindler, a veteran Nazi party member who came to Krakow shortly after the German conquest of Poland in 1939 to make his fortune as a free-wheeling entrepreneur.

Schindler employed 1,100 Jews in his enamelware factory and, at some point, the hard-drinking, womanizing, black market-dealing German Catholic decided to use his fortune and risk his neck to save every one of his "Schindlerjuden" from certain death in the nearby Auschwitz extermination camp.

His motives remain a mystery.

"I was always trying to discover through the survivors who knew him, who saw him, who were saved by him, why he did this," Spielberg said in an interview. "And most of the survivors said, 'We don't know why he did this. We only know that he did.' "

Filmed in black and white, the movie has the feel of a documentary and includes some of the most graphic Holocaust scenes ever shown in a Hollywood picture.

The director first thought about making *Schindler's List* in 1982, but he did not make the movie until 1993, when it overlapped with the production of *Jurassic Park* by three months.

"I could have been much easier and kinder to myself and my family by simply waiting until January 1994 to start *Schindler's List*, but I had just seen too many things on television that horrified myself and my wife," Spielberg said.

"What was happening in Bosnia — it was so familiar and it was so much a part of what I thought could never possibly happen again," he said. "And I just felt that sooner rather than later, a movie like this should come out and at least stir the pot."

When Spielberg was three years old and living in Cincinnati, he learned to read numbers from an Auschwitz survivor by using the concentration camp numbers on the man's forearm. The survivor enlivened the lesson with a flip of his arm and magically changed a 9 into a 6.

"I had a familiarity as a secondhand witness to the Holocaust from my family, who kept the memories of those years alive. It was something I grew up with," Spielberg said.

"I recollect a lot of stories, mainly from my grandparents, who had come from Austria and Russia. They suffered heavy losses on both sides, relatives, cousins, aunts, who were all in Eastern Europe and never came out alive."

The director also experienced anti-Semitism as a teen-ager in an affluent part of northern California.

"I was physically abused. I was beaten up," he said. "At one point it became so bad that I had to stop going to physical education because most of the abuse happened then. And that's when I was struck many times and knocked down.

"I mean I am not feeling sorry for myself when I say this, it was just an experience I wasn't prepared for," he said.

When Spielberg proposed making this film, a studio executive suggested that the director make a donation to a Holocaust museum and save the distributor grief.

Instead, the suggestion added to his motivation to make the film.

"I felt that was a message," he said. "That was sort of a very, very quiet message to be passed on to me, which kind of capped my resolve to make the movie immediately."

The birth of Spielberg's son in 1985 led him to re-examine Judaism and to a road that also led to *Schindler's List*.

"When I began to read books to him, I had to make a choice," he said. "Do I read books about Santa Claus or do I read books about Moses and Abraham and Isaac?

"I made a very strong choice to raise him Jewish with my first wife, Amy Irving, who was half-Jewish."

Spielberg's second wife, Kate Capshaw, converted to Judaism. "Her conversion was a beautiful experience for all of us because I studied along with her," the director said. "She studied and I was the beneficiary of everything that she was learning that I had forgotten.

"I re-emerged (to Judaism), I would say, through the birth of my children and through a decision I had to make about how I was going to raise them.

"I think that's what led me, that and events around the world, very naturally and I think in a very smooth way, to the decision to make *Schindler's List*."

When Spielberg began to look for movies to inspire him as he prepared to tell Schindler's story, he could not find any.

"It occurred to me that the predominant number of studio heads in the golden era of Hollywood were all Jews," Spielberg said.

"But they did not produce movies of the Jewish race, religion or culture or tradition. I also understood that they did struggle between the Jewish culture and race and the American culture and race, and they chose being American with fierce determination. And all I can say is that it's reflected in their choices of movies they didn't make."

To prepare himself for *Schindler's List*, he turned to documentaries that chronicled the Holocaust.

"Documentaries were my only source of inspiration, because Hollywood flees from subjects like this. They always have and they still do."

Spielberg hopes that his $23 million film, which premiered Dec. 15 in 12 American and Canadian cities, will inspire viewers to take an interest in the Holocaust.

Spielberg also hopes people will feel compelled "to be active in remembering — not just on Jewish holidays and not just on the anniversaries of the Shoah, but as a constant action of simply remembering."

"I am not saying that to devote your life to the Holocaust is a definition of being Jewish," he said. "I don't believe that.

"I think every human being owes a moral debt to the past, so that events that are happening as we sit right now, in Bosnia and with the Kurds, and just the heinousness of what could take place in the future, is at least given some serious time and attention."

Spielberg said, "We're running out of witnesses, and certainly by the first decade of the 21st century even the youngest eyewitnesses won't be with us anymore. And everything about the Shoah is going to be secondhand information.

"This is the time for the oldest survivors to address the youngest children in the world, to let them know what it was like and what happened, so that the next generation will be vigilant about never letting a thing like this happen again." — *(JTA)*

Hospitals really provide 'sick care' not health care

By JACK SHISVIN

Our health care system continues to be the subject of great public attention and debate. We are concerned with limits of doctors' billings, hospital shut downs, medical and paramedical education and other attendant problems. What we have not done is define the contradictory term health care. It is an oxymoron. We don't care for the healthy and the healthy don't care. In reality we provide care for the sick and incapacitated and it is they who care.

Not long ago I had occasion to spend a few days in a hospital to have a torn rotator cuff surgically repaired, an injury sustained while skiing over aggressively. I report this not because I want belated sympathy, and it is too late to solicit get well cards — I am fully recovered, thank you — but because I want to say something about the health care system as I experienced it.

I thought that not only engineers subscribe to theorem that "if it works, don't fix it" so I was caught off guard when the doctor said "it doesn't work, fix it" and I was persuaded to submit to surgery. From that moment I was cast in the role of a patient, gradually losing my self-assurance and along the way, my sense of self. Now that it's over, what I remember of the hospital stay is not the excellence of care and heroic action of doctors and nurses, but the human shortcomings, bureaucratic inefficiency and indifference of the system and my own totally irrelevant reactions and absurdities.

Jack Chisvin

I always associate hospitals with ice cream because as a child when I was hospitalized to have my tonsils removed, I was fed a constant diet of ice cream. I apparently share this association with many others, as immortalized by Bill Cosby in his classic recording. So I was pleasantly surprised when I was advised that my hospital routine would begin with POP. Alas, POP turned out not to be a confection but an acronym for patient-orientation-program.

After filling out countless forms I exchanged my name identity for a number, conspicuously engraved on a plastic card. Once I acquired my new numbered identity and the nurse welcomed me as 628409, I was placed on an assembly line of tests, examinations, prodding and measuring. I couldn't help but think of the summer when I was a student working on the killing floor in a meat packing plant. As soon as an animal is led from the holding pen, it becomes part of an irreversible process, relentlessly reduced by external circumstances and its own protective passivity, yielding all authority, independence and judgement of its own. When it was explained that following surgery, I would find myself in the recovery room with my arm suspended from a hook attached to the ceiling, I had a vision of being trussed and hung in a cooler next to a carcass of beef (not Kosher) with "Canada Grade A" stamped in red on my buttocks.

No medical examination is complete without providing a specimen. "The bathroom is through the door on the right," I was instructed. I went through the door on the right and there wasn't a bath in sight — a water closet and a basin, but no bath. Another language trap I mused, and was reminded of a time in a restaurant in Vienna, heeding the call of nature, I put together the German translation for the words bath and room and asked a waiter for direction. The perplexed waiter had some difficulty understanding me until he realized what I really wanted was a "toilette." To return to the point, who hasn't tried to pass a specimen on demand, only to find that either the valve remains shut or worse the bladder, having a mind of its own, is determined to empty a full litre of content into a 10 millilitre container? I was lucky — I had it both ways.

During my entire POP day, as I was being processed, I discovered that doctors and nurses are not very articulate communicators and have a rather limited vocabulary: the nurse as she put my blood, which she drew in generous amounts, into various solutions — "uh-hu"; the doctor as he examined my cardiogram — "uh-hu"; the nurse as she screened my urine which was collected with so much effort — "uh-hu." With each "uh-hu" I became increasingly alarmed. "What's with this 'uh-hu'?" I desperately croaked, through a throat as dry as the Negev. "We will let you know," they answered consolingly. If I wasn't sick when I arrived at the hospital that morning, I certainly wasn't feeling well when I was returned to my room.

In truth, I had a great doctor, and wonderful nurses and therapists. They did everything possible to limit my pain and discomfort and speed my recovery. They didn't even mind when I tried to contend with that most debilitating aspect of hospital confinement, the food, and ordered in a pizza. It was an experience that I was glad to endure since the surgeon promised me that in three months I would be able to return to playing tennis with a respectable ground stroke and in four months I would be able to hit overhead smashes — and that's fantastic — because I couldn't hit overhead smashes before I was injured!

Editorial/Letters

The Canadian Jewish news

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Syria's move

Syria's recent announcement that it will assist in the investigation of the whereabouts of six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon is heartening. In January, an American congressional team will leave for Damascus to try to determine what happened to Yehuda Katz, Zvi Feldman, Zecharia Baumel, Rahamim Alsheikh, Yossi Fink and Ron Arad. Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, extracted a promise of co-operation from Syria's president, Hafez Assad, during a visit to Damascus earlier this month.

Katz, Feldman and Baumel were captured during the 1982 Lebanon War. Alsheikh and Fink were kidnapped in 1986. Arad was taken prisoner in the same year after bailing out of his malfunctioning jet. By all accounts, Alsheikh and Fink are almost certainly dead; Katz, Feldman and Baumel may well have survived their ordeal; and Arad is most probably alive.

Israelis, and Jews in the Diaspora, will rejoice if any of these captives are found and brought back home. They have suffered enough, as have their families. This question should be resolved once and for all, not only for humanitarian reasons but for the sake of the peace process, which has come under great strain of late. Syrian assistance in bringing this issue to a satisfactory conclusion may assuage the fears of Israelis who oppose territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

In the meantime, the Syrians can be useful in resolving a similar issue — the disappearance of eight Jewish community leaders in Beirut, all of whom were kidnapped in 1984.

In fact, 11 were originally taken hostage, but three of the bodies turned up some time later bearing evidence of torture. A group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth claimed responsibility for the kidnappings. This oufit, it may be recalled, abducted and murdered Col. William Huggins, an American national in the employ of the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

The former UN secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and his chief deputy, Giandomenico Picco, tried to find the Lebanese Jews. But their search was fruitless, and efforts by de Cuellar's successor have also led nowhere. It thus appears that only Syria — the dominant foreign power in Lebanon — has the means to locate them, dead or alive.

If Assad can play a positive role in determining their fate, and that of the six Israelis, the peace process will surely benefit and Syria's often troubled relationship with the United States will undoubtedly improve.

Welcome to the MLA

For the first time in 65 years, the Modern Languages Association (MLA) of America is holding its annual convention in Toronto. The decision to select Toronto is a measure of its importance in the world culture, art and literature.

The MLA convention, usually held in New York or Chicago, draws more than 10,000 delegates each year to hear papers and participate in various colloquia on world literature. Professors and researchers from North American universities and colleges attend these sessions to listen to scholarly papers, exchange views and seek job opportunities.

For most of its 65-year history the MLA has focused primarily on English, French, Spanish and German literature. However, starting about a decade ago, the association began to expand its horizons.

In the early years of the MLA, it was rare, if not impossible, to find discussion papers on Jewish elements in literature except for the occasional debate over the true meaning of Shakespeare's Shylock. Hebrew or Yiddish literature did not fit into the MLA's understanding of modern languages.

All that happily has changed since the MLA broadened its focus. In the last several years, there has been a noteable jump in the representation of Jewish literary themes. This year, for example, there are 13 separate papers scheduled on the relationship between Jews and Judaism and various aspects of literature and history.

Two papers will deal with Holocaust themes from French and American perspectives. A comparative analysis of the ideas of Jewish selfhood in Harold Pinter and Franz Kafka is another offerin,

Canadians will be pleased to learn that the MLA this year will devote a whole session to an exploration and assessment of Canadian Jewish literature, a subject which will dovetail appropriately with a forum planned on the role of Jews in the formation of the English national identity.

In all, six of 18 papers to be presented on "Other Literatures" will deal with Jewish themes. Three of them will analyze aspects of Yiddish langauge and literature; one will deal with German women writers; and the two others will highlight themes in modern Hebrew and Sephardi studies.

SETTLERS PRAY

Israeli settlers with Bibles and Uzi submachine guns pray in the road beside a torch-light memorial at dawn as they block the road to passing Palestinian traffic. Two Israelis were killed at the spot in a Palestinian drive-by shooting. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.

THE CHRISTIAN EMBASSY

I write in response to Ron Csillag's review of a report on the International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem (*CJN*, Nov. 18).

Over the years the Toronto Zionist Council has had dealings with the Canadian Friends of ICEJ and has come to trust and admire them, especially their executive director, Al Lazerte. These people possess to an uncommon degree a quality which we have found sadly lacking in the community at large: their actions give life to their words!

When we held demonstrations against *The Toronto Star* for its anti-Israeli bias, they were with us; when we publicly protested Arab terrorism, they stood with us; when we demonstrated at the U.S. Consulate for Jonathan Pollard's freedom, they marched with us. In fact, Mr. Lazerte and colleagues have just returned from a trip to Washington — at their own expense — to participate in the International Lobby Day for Jonathan Pollard.

When we recently asked various Jewish organizations to lend their names to our letter of concern for the settlers' security, we were asked "Who else is signing?" Not Al Lazerte; he promptly faxed a letter — far stronger than ours — to the prime minister on behalf of the Canadian Friends of ICEJ.

If ICEJ wishes to convert Jews to hasten the coming of the Messiah, let us produce an educational system, a religious and cultural milieu that will render our people impervious to their "agenda and methodology."

In the meantime, for their generosity and action on behalf of our people, I am beholden to Christian friends such as Canadian Friends of ICEJ, who came to Israel when the Scuds were flying (and Jews were rerouting to Florida) and who, God willing, will be joining our mission into Judea and Samaria because they believe, as we do, that it is a sin to create an Arab terrorist state in Eretz Yisrael.

Nomi Winkler
Vice-president
Toronto Zionist Council

* * *

BEN-AHARON'S CHUTZPAH

Re your Nov. 18 issue, "Peace negotiator says accord a violation of principles. . ." Mr. Yosef Ben-Aharon seems to be showing us his main principle is chutzpah.

Mr. Ben-Aharon, after piously telling us he tries to avoid criticizing the Israeli government (perhaps only when it is run by his party), has the chutzpah to come here to stir up action against the peace process. May I make so bold as to ask what he produced with his negotiations after two years? Does he really expect the world, including Palestinians, other Arabs, Israelis and yes, us, to accept indefinite negotiations on nothing?

Of course there are questions, doubts, lack of trust, risks, you name it. Even Rabin, when asked about these the same day he signed and shook hands, pointed out that he is not yet disbanding the Israeli army. One cannot expect peace without concessions, and we here are not the ones to decide if they are reasonable . . . not even with Ben-Aharon's help!

Finally he has the gall (or naivete?) to ask us to give money to help the settlements because they "are an obstacle to this deal." Why not to help relocate the settlers? I would like to make it clear: I (still) don't like Arafat and his gang. I felt queasy when I saw that handshake, as I'm sure did many others. But what is the alternative? So, Mr. Ben-Aharon, please do your campaigning back home.

Yitzhak Kalin
Ottawa

* * *

CAFTANS ET THE A LA MENTHE

Avoir assisté comme bénévole au Reine Elizabeth pour le GA (Assemblée Générale des Juifs nord-américains) m'a donné envie d'écrire des choses qui me tiennent à coeur depuis longtemps. J'ai eu la chance ce jour-là d'assister à une conférence, et une des conférencières Shoshana Cardin nous a émues, soulevé en nous un enthousiasme, une foi, un élan et une émotion indescriptibles. Elle nous a montré la fierté d'être juives, le pouvoir, la passion, la force des femmes juives américaines et canadiennes.

Nous n'étions que cinq juives sépharades à cette conférence du GA qui s'est déroulée du 16 au 21 novembre dans trois différents hôtels, sur les quelque 1000 bénévoles, nous étions à peu près une centaine de sépharades, soit environ 10 par hôtel et par jour. Nous nous sommes senties perdues, noyées dans la masse. Bien sûr, les Américains ont aimé "Your lovely french accent" et ont été adorables. Mais que nous étions seules nous les juives francophones! Juste une seule conférence en français... et nous alors les juifs francophones?... nous en voulions plus. Nous sommes, hélas, une minorité invisible. Je parle aujourd'hui surtout pour les femmes (Shoshana Cardin a eu un impact certain sur moi).

Il faut signaler à la population que nous sommes là, nous juives francophones sépharades de tous âges et de tous milieux. Nous sommes là, nous voulons être reconnues pour ce que nous sommes, être en force quand l'occasion se présente, être considérées, être valorisées, être...

Nous devons être fières d'être sépharades, fières de parler français, fières de ce que nous représentons. La plupart d'entre nous parle anglais, hébreu, espagnol, arabe. Nous pouvons être de culture juive et européenne, orientale et occidentale. Nous pouvons être tout ça à la fois. "Caftans et thé à la menthe" bien sûr, mais aussi la mode actuelle, mais aussi une curiosité pour tout ce qui se passe dans le monde, mais aussi avoir envie d'être complètement à la page, sans renier pour autant nos coutumes sépharades et notre patrimoine qui nous donnent un avantage et une expérience dont nous devons être fières encore une fois. Oui, nous sommes à la fois marocaines, québécoises, canadiennes, nord-américaines... Oui, nous sommes porteuses de cultures et de comportements différents. Oui, nous vivons une période d'ouverture d'esprit et de liberté.

Nos jeunes filles, nos jeunes femmes sont jolies, élégantes, sportives, cultivées. Pourquoi, pourquoi sont-elles si peu visibles?

On ne connaît rien de nous, pourquoi? Nous sommes pourtant une force énorme avec tout ce qu'il y a en nous d'inexploité. Nous possédons tout pour avoir la tête haute dans n'importe quelle manifestation. Bien sûr, dans le 2 ou 3 synagogues de quartier, il y a un Comité de femmes, chargé des repas, des lunchs et à la rigueur, des défilés de mode. C'est bien, mais nous sommes certainement capables de plus. A vous mesdames de clamer haut et fort ce qui nous manque pour être visibles et fortes.

Sépharadement vôtre,

Mady Anidjar
Montreal

Opinion

Ben-Gurion's dream comes to life in the desert

By RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

A few days ago I returned from Israel. Looking back on a most fruitful, inspiring and informative journey I will try to share with you some of the impressions that remain with me.

As usual, the latest experiences come to mind first. My wife and I spent the last day of our trip in Beersheva in the northern part of the Negev. This was the area in which our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, pitched their tents.

Rabbi Plaut

Inevitably, when we come to this city, we remember our first visit there in 1956. It was then little more than an overgrown village with a few streets and a market place where Bedouin traders predominated and camels took up most of the space. Above all, there was the desert with its rigor and its challenges.

A few years later when we returned, a small university had been founded, which carried out the dream of David Ben-Gurion to take the challenge of the desert seriously. One building had been erected, standing gray against the stark and unyielding background of the environment. No trees, nothing to interrupt the desolate thrust of the desert.

But slowly, scientists began to bring Ben-Gurion's dream to life. They used the desert water with its high saline content, and made vegetation possible. Their research intensified, and the world started paying attention. Many countries — especially in Africa where the scarcity of water determines much of life — learned from Israel how the frontiers of the desert could be rolled back and food could be wrested from its parched soil.

The University is today one of those marvellous places in Israel which have made a contribution not only to the nation but to the world. They have expanded knowledge, reduced starvation and given hope to millions in lands where drought and poverty are endemic.

Even in the one and a half years since we had visited last, the growth of the city and the University are palpable. The University is the heart of the northern Negev, and its growth, both internal and external, speaks to me of Israel's future as does little else. To end one's Israel visit in this fashion is a way of taking a dream away to wherever one lives.

But it was not only the multiplicity of efforts to use the forces in hitherto untried and unimagined ways which we admired; there was another frontier which beckoned us.

For some years now, Ben-Gurion University has made patient-doctor relationships an important factor of its medical school. Part of its vision has been to train physicians both as first rate technicians who are aware of all medical advances and at the same time as human beings who try to achieve the best in patient-doctor relationships. Students are chosen not merely by grades and intellectual ability, but also by their human qualities.

We visited with Professor Shimon Glick who has pioneered these efforts and who proudly (and justifiably) called my attention to a leading publication. In October, the Association of American Medical Colleges published a report entitled Promoting Medical Students' Ethical Development. After assessing what goes on in North America as well as elsewhere in the world, the article has this to say:

"Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Israel, remains the best example of a medical school methodically focusing on personal qualities. This small school, established in 1974 with a community orientation, has from its beginning emphasized the evaluation of empathy, flexibility and responsibility in the admission decision. Candidates complete an autobiographical form including three standard questions: on a moral dilemma, a significant experience, and a major achievement. Interviewers take off from these responses, focusing as much as possible on students' actual *deeds*. Interviewers receive intensive training and new interviewers are paired with experienced ones. With particularly promising candidates, interviewers shift to more stressful questions."

This report, aimed at the entire medical establishment in the United States, and published in Washington, is bound to have an influence in Canada as well.

It made me happy to think that in this bustling Negev town, surrounded by the desert, the light of humanistic endeavor shines so brightly that it can be seen all over the world. Professor Glick and his associates believe that what they are doing expresses Judaism at its best. We left Israel with that ringing statement in our minds.

Peace process offers hope despite being buffeted

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

No one, least of all Israel, expected a trouble-free Middle East peace process. Not surprisingly, the talks have run into dire difficulties:

•Israel was to have begun its withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip on Dec. 13, but now its pullback has been delayed indefinitely. In a Cairo meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat resolved to bridge their differences, which revolve around control of border crossings, the size of the proposed Palestinian enclave in and around Jericho, and the question of security for Israeli settlers in the territories.

•The generally euphoric mood which greeted Israel's Sept. 13 accord with the PLO on limited Palestinian autonomy has vanished, as a wave of violence has claimed the lives of 41 Palestinians and 14 Israelis.

•After more than two years of on-again, off-again negotiations, Israel and Syria have failed to reach an agreement on a declaration of principles.

•The Lebanese government has rejected Israel's conditions for an Israeli withdrawal from its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

Despite these grave setbacks, the long-range prospects are not necessarily hopeless.

•It is in Israel's and the PLO's interest to bring the talks to a successful conclusion, and both sides will spare no effort to ensure that the more important April 13 target date for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho is met.

Israel and the PLO realize that the Sept. 13 pact, whatever its flaws, offers Israelis and Palestinians the best chance, historically, of a lasting rapprochement between Palestinian nationalism and Zionism.

To be sure, there are rejectionists in each camp whose goal is to derail the peace process — notably Jewish settlers and their sympathizers intent on keeping the territories in spite of the cost in blood, and Palestinians who either haven't reconciled themselves to Israel's existence or believe the agreement is fatally flawed.

•Syria — the key to translating the Israel-PLO declaration of principles into a comprehensive Arab-Israeli accord — has agreed to renew talks with Israel, after insisting it would not do so unless Israel first agreed to relinquish the Golan Heights.

Furthermore, Syria's foreign minister, Farouk al-Shara, has declared that peace for Syria is a "strategic option." In plain language, this means that the Syrian leadership has finally concluded that peace, rather than war, is its preference. This should be considered a breakthrough.

In an effort to clear the decks for substantive discussions in the new year, Syria made two concessions to the American secretary of state, Warren Christopher. First, Damascus will grant exit visas to Syria's remaining Jews. Second, the Syrians have promised to co-operate with a U.S. special commission to investigate the fate of several missing Israeli servicemen, including the navigator Ron Arad.

On the ground so far, Syria has lived up to an understanding with Israel not to let military equipment from Iran pass through its territory to Palestinian radicals and Hezbollah guerrillas based in Lebanon.

And most important of all, Syria has turned down Iran's entreaties to abandon the peace process and help it increase military pressure on Israel through Lebanon.

The Syrians, however, are still using Hezbollah as a surrogate force in Lebanon, and will continue to do so until Israel and Syria reach an agreement. Witness the border flare-up on Nov. 16, the gravest incident since Israel's Operation Accountability in late July. (Since the beginning of 1993, the Israeli army and its ally, the South Lebanon Army, have killed 120 Hezbollah fighters. Israel has lost 59 soldiers in combat.)

What's more, Syria continues to harbor 10 Palestinian groups which vociferously oppose an accommodation with Israel. Chief among them is Ahmed Jibril's organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command.

In the meantime, Israel and Syria remain at loggerheads over Syria's insistence that Israel declare its readiness to make a full withdrawal from the Golan, and Israel's refusal to spell out its intentions until Syria clearly outlines its definition of peace.

According to reports, the Clinton administration has proposed a formula under which Israel would recognize Syria's sovereignty of the Golan in exchange for a Syrian statement indicating its readiness to establish diplomatic relations and normalization with Israel.

The United States is eager to facilitate an Israeli-Syrian agreeement, partly because the peace process is at real risk without Damascus's direct involvement and endorsement, and partly because Washington hopes to isolate Teheran by driving a wedge between Syria and Iran.

These issues will figure prominently when President Bill Clinton and Syria's president, Hafez Assad confer in a summit in Geneva on Jan. 16. As well, Clinton and Assad will discuss the possibility of removing Syria from a State Department list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

•If Israel and Syria come to terms, Lebanon — Syria's protectorate — will not be far behind.

Last month, Rabin offered the Lebanese government a deal under which Israel would give up its security zone, provided the newly-reconstituted Lebanese army deployed further south, disarmed Hezbollah and prevented attacks against the Israeli army in Lebanon for at least six months.

Beirut flatly rejected Israel's offer. But if Syria gives the Lebanese a nudge, a new situation will develop.

•Israel and Jordan have signed a declaration of principles and an understanding of economic co-operation.

If he could, King Hussein of Jordan would enter into a full-fledged peace treaty with Israel tomorrow. In essence, Israel and Jordan, though technically at war, already enjoy de facto peace.

But Jordan, a relatively weak country with powerful Arab neighbors, cannot afford to act unilaterally. Jordan's geo-political position accounts for King Hussein's recent decision to "coordinate" its policy with Syria.

In effect, this means that Jordan will stop short of expanding its relations with Israel unless Syria approves. Which is why Israel cannot keep Syria waiting much longer. As recently as last month, Rabin said that peace with Syria was his third priority, contingent on arrangements with the PLO and Jordan.

•In a development which hints at the tantalizing benefits Israel stands to gain in the rest of the Arab world once Syria and Jordan fall into line, Morocco announced on Dec. 12 that it would broaden economic co-operation with Israel.

Air, telephone, mail and banking links are to be established, and on another plane, Morocco and Israel will step up the level of political dialogue.

In spite of all the problems Israel has encountered in peace talks to date, there is hope after all. Yet optimists should expect a long and bumpy process, characterized by crises and brinkmanship.

And, unfortunately, there will be further bloodletting. The enemies of peace will see to that.

New Year's Eve has certainly changed over the years

By ERICA MEYER RAUZIN

For years, I hated New Year's Eve. I hated the dating pressure. I hated the glitz. I hated the anticipation and the let down. I didn't even like champagne.

But I don't hate it anymore because I learned to quit following the party line. Now, my idea of a great New Year's Eve party involves a few good friends, a table full of great food and an understanding that any grown-up who gets sleepy before midnight is allowed to go home without further penalty.

Erica Meyer Rauzin

New Year's Eve, 1972. My mother met a lady at a Thanksgiving party. The lady mentioned her son; my mom mentioned her daughter. They decided he should call me. He did.

We were both only in town for a week, visiting our families during winter break from college and grad school. It took some arranging, but we finally agreed to double-date with my cousin and her husband on, you guessed it, New Year's Eve.

We went out to dinner and a movie. At the stroke of midnight, we were watching Liv Ullman in *The Immigrants*. At 1 a.m. my cousins went home, but we didn't notice. At 3 a.m. we were still talking.

We've been married almost 15 years.

New Year's Eve, 1983: I had surgery in early December and felt punk. I was still wearing long housecoats instead of real clothing when we flew to Pittsburgh to spend the holiday week with four friends in an A-frame cottage in the snowy, beautiful Laurel Highlands. I had to use a wheelchair in the airport.

Our friends greeted us with love and care. They tucked me into the couch in front of the fireplace. They brought me hot chocolate. They helped me heal. At midnight, on New Year's Eve, my husband held me up on one side and my friends took turns holding me on the other, and we took a walk. The night was crisp cold; the air was diamond clear; the snow crunched under our feet. I stood, well supported, in the moonlit woods and realized that this illness, too, would pass. And so it did.

New Year's Eves, early 1990s: We were four couples, all basically homebodies, all kosher, all together for three New Year's Eves in a row. We gathered in what we loosely referred to as a Kosher Gourmet Group. Throughout the year, we'd meet to eat about once every other month. We'd select a gourmet menu from somewhere around the globe and recreate it as a kosher feast. We feasted on Indonesian and Italian and French and Mediterranean cuisine.

We'll miss this year because we won't be in town and because it's a Friday night, which makes it tough for Sabbath-observant families, but I hope the gourmets will regroup shortly after the holiday.

We discovered that we liked having a routine, an expectation, a close gathering. We didn't want to be out there on New Year's Eve with the drunk drivers and the have-a-good-time-or-else mentality. We also discovered that we liked adding a kosher component to this totally secular holiday. These gourmet evenings didn't include much reflection on the past or making resolutions for the year to come, but we have Rosh Hashanah for that. (And a gourmet feast is a pretty poor setting to resolve that this year, at last, I'll really, really diet.)

New Year's Eve, 1994: This is not yet actuality, but we're getting excited. Our three children, who are 10, 7 and 3, have never seen snow before. They are tropical tots, raised amid palm trees and sand. But this winter break, they can revel in the white stuff.

We've gotten a house sitter and a dog feeder for the homestead, and we're heading for the high Rockies. We have a condo with a loft and a fireplace overlooking the breathtaking mountains of Crested Butte, Colo. (I know it's beautiful because we've stayed in the same condo for several August vacations, when the ground was covered with wildflowers, not snow). We're going with dear friends and their two children. We plan to ski, play in the snow, read, relax and celebrate the perfect New Year's Eve: a few people who really care about each other, a cozy place with a beautiful view for midnight moon gazing and, yes, a bottle of champagne.

When I drink my toast, readers all and editors, too, I'll be thanking you for sharing another year with my family through this column, and wishing you whatever New Year, and New Year's Eve, your heart desires.

Features

Vergelis promotes Yiddish in Russia

— In Moscow, Sheldon Kirshner interviews the editor of Russia's only Yiddish-language journal.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Aron Vergelis, 75, is the grand old man of Yiddish in Russia.

For 30 years, he was editor of *Sovietish Heimland* (Soviet Homeland), the periodical considered the flagship of Yiddish culture in the former Soviet Union.

When it folded in December 1991, Vergelis was like a fish out of water. But now he's back. In the past year, he has presided over the fortunes of a new Yiddish journal, *Die Yiddishe Gas* (The Jewish Street), which still retains the distiction of being a one-of-a-kind magazine in this continent-sized nation. The *Birobidzhaner Shtern*, which appears in the remote Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidzhan, is also published in Yiddish. But it's strictly a newspaper, without *Die Yiddishe Gas'* literary flourishes.

With a circulation of about 5,000, *Die Yiddishe Gas* carries short stories, poetry, drama and songs. For the benefit of younger readers, there is a Russian-language section. And in every edition, readers can expect a column in Hebrew.

Edited in *Sovietish Heimland's* old office on Ul. Myasnitskaya, a stone's throw away from the KGB building and close to the Kremlin, Die Yiddishe Gas is financed by a local trading company called Russia-Israel and the New York-based Workers' Circle. Vergelis describes it as an offshoot of *Sovietish Heimland*.

The editorial offices of *Die Yiddishe Gas* are spartan and dim, though somewhat enlivened by busts of illustrious Yiddish writers and oil paintings of shtetl life. Vergelis' desk, piled with manuscripts and books, is in the centre of the biggest room. He employs 15 workers, four of whom are editors. He needs an annual budget of five million roubles, or several thousand American dollars, to survive.

Vergelis, a writer and poet, is immensely proud of his association with *Sovietish Heimland*. "It was a sensation when it first appeared in 1961," he said in clean, mellifluous Yiddish. "What I did with *Sovietish Heimland* was historic. It rescued Yiddish literature from destruction. Our greatest (Yiddish) writers had been shot."

Vergelis, of course, was referring to that black day in August 1952 when more than two-dozen Yiddish writers, notably Peretz Markish and Leib Kwitko, were murdered on Josef Stalin's orders. Stalin had accused them of being Jewish nationalists, a dreadful crime at the time.

Vergelis, who had been expelled from the Communist party in 1951 amidst Stalin's anti-cosmopolitan campaign, escaped execution. But he was never readmitted to the party, which he had joined as a Red Army soldier in 1942.

Sovietish Heimland supplanted by Die Yiddishe Gas

By his account, the origins of *Sovietish Heimland* stem from a conversation he had with the secretary-general of the Soviet Communist party, Nikita Khrushchev. Vergelis, then Moscow Radio's chief Yiddish broadcaster, warned Khrushchev that Yiddish was dying. He suggested that the government could rescue Yiddish if he, Khrushchev, allowed him to publish a magazine dedicated to the preservation of Yiddish culture.

While Khrushchev took the matter under consideration, Vergelis cleverly orchestrated a letter-writing campaign to the Communist party's central committee on behalf of his idea.

Khrushchev finally agreed, Vergelis observed, largely because he did not wish to antagonize Jewish Communists abroad.

Sovietish Heimland was published under the auspices of the Soviet Writers' Union, which made up the difference between expenditures and income. At its height, *Sovietish Heimland's* circulation was 25,000. Printed on glossy paper until its final years, *Sovietish Heimland* averaged 200 pages per issue.

Vergelis denies he was a tool of the regime, but makes no bones of his attachment to pure, unadulterated communism.

He claims he kept his distance from "the system," did not pander to its leaders and was never a member of the notorious Anti-Zionist Committee.

The front cover of Die Yiddishe Gas, the successor of Sovietish Heimland.

Vergelis has not lost faith in the theoretical underpinnings of communism — namely, the notion of a free, egalitarian, classless society.

"I was always like that," he said. "I don't burn Lenin's photograph. That's bad."

He has nothing but contempt for Stalin who, he declared, "should have been thrown to the dogs." Had Stalin lived longer, Vergelis said, he would have deported the Jewish population to Siberia. "I don't know what would have happened next. But it would have been bad, and Yiddish culture would have been destroyed."

Vergelis' view of Zionism was always carefully calibrated.

To this day, he distinguishes between the "classical" Zionism of Theodor Herzl and the Zionism of "Sabra and Shatila."

As he put it: "I never opposed a Jewish homeland for the Jewish people. There must be a Jewish homeland. I support the Zionism that supports peace. I criticized Israel during the Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon. I said Jews who went through Babi Yar and Auschwitz should not do this to Arabs."

Vergelis claims he opposed Moscow's severance of diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Six Day War. He said he could never reconcile this development with the Soviet Union's formal ties with Spain after Francisco Franco's victory and with Chile after the right-wing, American-inspired military coup.

Asked how he felt about the shipment of sophisticated Soviet military equipment to Arab countries such as Syria and Egypt, Vergelis replied, "I didn't concern myself with these matters."

Returning to *Sovietish Heimland*, Vergelis agreed that rising production costs and drastic cuts in government subsidies led to its demise.

"Besides, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it would have been foolish to continue with its old name."

With *Sovietish Heimland* gone, Vergelis' thoughts turned to publishing a similar journal. In 1992, he launched the fundraising campaign which made the existence of *Die Yiddishe Gas* possible.

But financial problems dog *Die Yiddishe Gas*. "Inflation is continually pushing up costs," he said. With inflation running at 1,000 per cent on an annual basis, Vergelis' predicament is not hard to understand.

He seems unconcerned that Jewish emigration, which has reached the half-million mark since 1989, may erode his readership. "There'll always be Jews in Russia," he noted.

And they speak "the richest, cleanest" Yiddish on the planet, he boasted.

Vergelis, who has 20 books to his credit, was born in Ukraine but raised in Birobidzhan, which was established as a Jewish national district in 1928 and as an autonomous region six years later. His father, Alter, who died in 1937, was a "simple bookeeper," and never joined the Communist party.

In his teens, Vergelis cut his teeth on journalism by contributing articles to the *Birobidzhaner Shtern*. After university, he joined the army. He was a parachutist, and was twice wounded. His mother, as well as his older sister, were shot by the Germans.

Despite the vigorous timbre of his voice, Vergelis is not in the best of health. Some years ago, a dog sprang on him, breaking his hip. He has been through two operations since then, but the pain persists.

One of the last editions of Sovietish Heimland.

Vergelis' wife, the daughter of a Yiddish writer, was an editor in a state publishing house until her retirement. Their daughter works as an editor, specializing in English-language books.

Having spent a good part of his youth in Birobidzhan, Vergelis is attached to that region adjacent to the Chinese border.

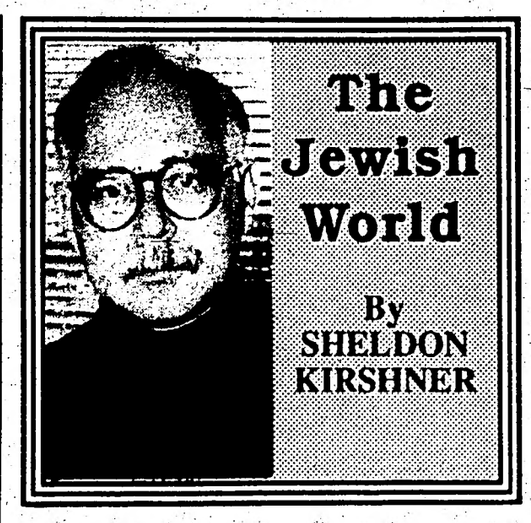
"Birobidzhan," he said, "could have been great. It had everything going for it, a good climate, mineral wealth."

In its formative years, a Soviet president, Mikhail Kalinin, predicted that Birobidzhan would develop into "the most important guardian of Jewish national culture."

But Stalin's purges, together with his anti-Semitic policies, spelled finis to Birobidzhan. Leon Trotsky derisively dubbed it "a bureaucratic farce," while Khrushchev pronounced it a failure. By official count, 8,000 Jews remain there today, comprising about four per cent of its population.

"Birobidzhan started well," mused Vergelis, who has written two novels about it. "But, unfortunately, there was no political will to sustain it."

Aron Vergelis in his Moscow office. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]



The Jewish World

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

The Russian State Historical Archives in St. Petersburg are pregnant with promise. For historians like David Raskin, they hold the key to a fuller understanding of Jewish life in Russia under the Romanov dynasty, which was ingloriously expunged by the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

"There are literally tens of thousands of documents, mostly in good condition, waiting to be examined," said Raskin in an interview one cool, foggy morning. "They can tell us a lot about Czarist policy toward Jews, a field that has been insufficiently researched."

The reason for that is clear. The Romanovs kept such data under lock and key, while their successors, the Communists, tightly regulated access to archival material.

With regard to Jews, the Communist regime was only interested in unearthing information pertaining to Jewish participation in 19th century revolutionary movements. Everything else concerning the Jewish community was considered irrelevant.

"So for all practical purposes," Raskin explained, "no research was carried out."

After 1948, the year Josef Stalin launched a campaign to snuff out Jewish culture, the archives were sealed. For the next four decades, silence prevailed as documents gathered dust.

With the onset of glasnost and perestroika in the mid-1980s, liberalization set in and, with it, freedom for researchers to delve into heretofore closed vaults.

Raskin, 47, took advantage of the new situation. He was eminently qualified for the task. Raskin is a graduate of St. Petersburg State University and, typically, he was the only Jew in his faculty. In the last four decades of the Communist era, as anti-Semitism became an integral aspect of state policy, Jews were deflected from studying Russian history.

Raskin, however, was not turned away because he was such a good student. A specialist in Russian nationalism, economic development and government organizations, he has two books and numerous monographs to his credit. Last year, he stumbled upon the diary of Grigori Rasputin (1872-1916), the conniving, semi-literate Siberian monk who was a notorious figure in the corrupt court of Czar Nicholas II.

Revealing documents

The oldest documents on Jews Raskin has found date back to the late 18th century, when Paul I (1796-1801) sat on the Romanov throne. "Pavel," he said, using the Russian equivalent, "had no special attitude to Jews."

His successor, Aleksandr I (1801-1825), sought the assimilation of his Jewish subjects. "There are many interesting government documents from this period, though few from the Jewish side," said Raskin.

The reign of Nicholas I (1825-1855), he added, has yielded documents generated by the secret police, provincial governors and government committees.

Aleksandr II (1855-1881) widened civil rights for Jews, and documents from this epoch have turned up a motherlode of information about Jewish schools and organizations and the activities of Jewish merchants and financiers.

Aleksandr III (1881-1894) turned the clock back, oppressing Jews on "a religious and national level," said Raskin. In his view, Aleksandr was simply an anti-Semite. His monarchy was punctuated by pogroms, mass emigration and Zionist ferment, and these events were richly documented.

Under Nicholas II (1894-1917), there was more or less of the same. Raskin has come across police reports relating to pogroms and minutes from Jewish communal meetings.

Virtually all the documents he has read are in Russian, with a sprinkling in Yiddish and English (British Jewry made representations on behalf of their persecuted brethren.)

Raskin hopes to publish a selection of these documents, with an accompanying commentary, this year or in 1995. The text will be in Russian.

Far more work, though, remains to be done. Archives all over Russia that have been opened of late contain a wealth of unexamined documents about Jews. Once plumbed, they should shed much light on Russian Jewry down through the ages.

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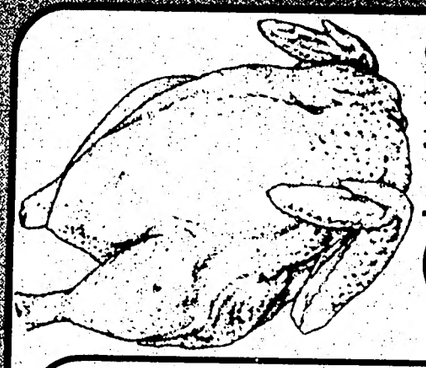

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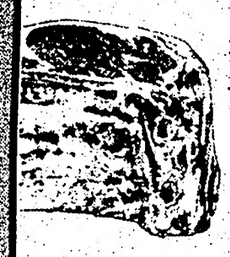

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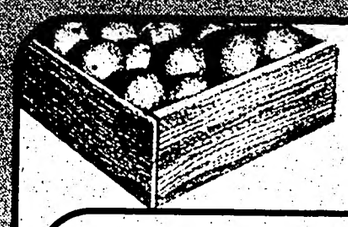

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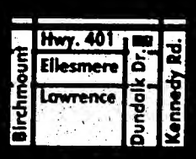

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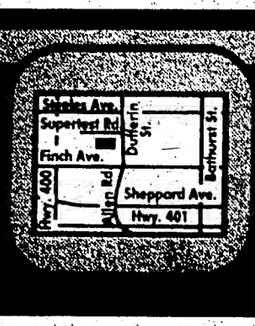

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Organizations and People

WJCC retires $1 million deficit

By MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG — The Winnipeg Jewish Community Council (WJCC) is celebrating the retirement of a $1-million deficit.

"It's something to be proud of," says Jack Cipilinsky, WJCC finance director.

Cipilinsky presented the good news in an audited financial statement at a Nov. 24 board meeting.

The debt was acquired in 1982, he reported, when the community took over the Jewish parochial schools and amalgamated them under the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education.

"We paid off the loans outstanding on the school buildings and the YMHA building," Cipilinsky said, "We didn't borrow from the banks. Rather we have been writing off the deficit at the rate of about $150,000 a year from money we receive to fund our beneficiaries.

"We pretty much wrote it all off two years ago. There was just a few thousand left over the last couple of years."

This means more money is free for beneficiary organizations at a time when the economic downturn has hurt the yearly fundraising campaign.

Barring that, community finances are in good shape thanks to careful budgeting and endowment funds which have made up for any drop in campaign contributions.

"The future is in endowment funds," said Cipilinsky. The Wall fund, established four years ago in the YMHA Jewish Community Centre lobby, brings in about $70,000 a year. There is also a reserve fund of $95,000 in case of a program funding shortfall. Cipilinsky reported the WJCC ran a $25,000 surplus this past year.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Cantor Louis Danto presided over a candle-lighting ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Earl Bales Park on the fifth night of Chanukah. The ceremony also marked the anniversary of the day the Nazis liquidated the Russian town of Jody, where Canadian Society for Yad Vashem co-founders David Smuschkowitz and Peter Silverman were born. [Ron Csillag photo]

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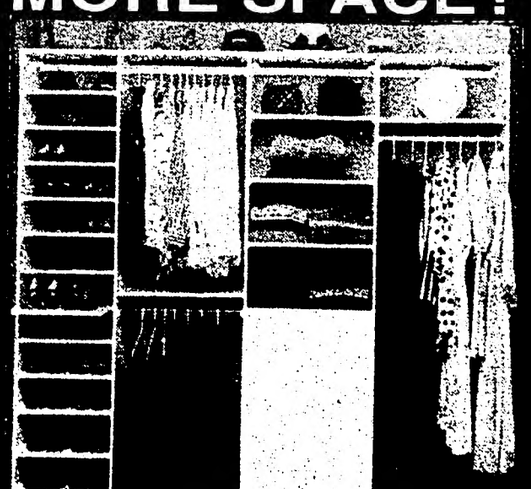
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New shaliach helps prospective olim

By FRANCES KRAFT

Udi Savion

TORONTO — Whether or not to move to Israel is really a personal decision, says Toronto's new aliyah shaliach, Tel Aviv-born Ehud (Udi) Savion. "I'm here to help with the technical [aspects]," he says. Savion replaces former aliyah shaliach Ofer Gavish, who returned to Israel in August.

Aside from facilitating aliyah for those who have made the decision and providing information for those who are considering it, prime concerns for Savion in his new position include combating assimilation and strengthening the bonds between Israel and the Toronto Jewish community.

He looks forward to working with members of the local community, both adults and children, to inform them about life in Israel and celebrate the Jewish holidays in a traditional way, he told *The CJN* during a recent interview at the Israel Aliyah Centre's Bathurst Street office. He is available for lectures and seminars on topics such as Israeli politics and economics, as well as high school education in Israel.

Savion wants to work toward "a good strong Jewish community all over the world." By strengthening the ties between the Jewish community here and that in Israel, Savion, a lifelong Zionist, hopes to contribute to maintaining Israel's own strength.

Savion wants to encourage investment in Israel by both individuals and the business community here, he said. He also noted that Israel is currently in a period of economic growth conducive to investors.

Savion is optimistic about the peace process in Israel, he said. "I think there's no other choice. If you don't try, you won't [fail], but you won't have success either."

Savion, a 43-year-old father of four who served in the Israeli Marine Force for 25 years, had a taste of unofficial shlichut in 1981, when he and his family spent six months in Newport, Rhode Island so that he could take an American Navy staff course.

The Savions became involved in Newport's Jewish community, particularly in those aspects of Jewish life revolving around the Touro Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in North America.

"We found that we liked that way of life within the Jewish community," Savion recalled. "They adopted us, and we adopted them. I lectured about Jewish life and Israel, and my wife arranged traditional holiday meals, singing and activities. We got back what we gave."

After retiring from the Israeli Marine Force last year, Savion spent a year as project manager for a town of 2,500 housing units near Kfar Saba. His resume includes an MA in public policy from Tel Aviv University and an MA in political science from Haifa University.

A veteran of the Yom Kippur War whose senior command positions included commander of Missile and Patrol Boats Squadron, Savion lived near the shore of the Mediterranean, in the town of Binyamina, halfway between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

His wife Tami, who along with three of their children will join him here in January, managed clubs for Russian and Ethiopian immigrants and organized children's activities, as well as managing clubs for pensioners in Israel. Their oldest son, who is completing the IDF officers' course, is staying in Israel.

The Savions want to give of themselves during their stay in Toronto. "We think that we will also enrich our lives," he said.

UJA MISSION FLY IN

At a recent UJA fly-in mission to Washington, mission co-chair Seymour Schulich and his wife Tanna take in exhibits at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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At the BBYO convention (from left) Tom Lobel, BBYO adult board chair; Jeff Glaizel, Toronto area council president and Decisions '93 co-ordinator; Amy Warsh, convention co-ordinator; Michael Rotstein, convention co-ordinator; and Talia Berznoger, Decisions '93 co-ordinator.

BBYO teenagers gather for Beauheart Convention

TORONTO — On a November weekend, over 200 youth of the Lake Ontario Region of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) gathered in Toronto for their annual Beauheart Convention.

The region includes Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton, London, Guelph, Buffalo and Rochester.

The theme of the weekend, Through the Looking Glass, was an opportunity to look at themselves, others and the world around them. The convention was co-ordinated by Amy Warsh and Michael Rotstein.

Alex Freedman and Marta Siemiarczuk, both from London, Ont., were voted Regional Beau and Regional Sweetheart. Marty Goldberg and Tom Lobel helped explain the allocation of funds from the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto to BBYO and other community agencies.

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UJA On Campus

Organizations and People

Matas captures imagination

By LEILA SPEISMAN

TORONTO —From fantasy to the Holocaust, with a stopover in czarist Russia, is a somewhat unexpected jump for a writer of children's fiction ... unless you are Winnipeger Carol Matas, whose works have captured the imagination of Canadian youngsters — and the interest of their parents.

So well thought of is Matas, that her most recent book, *Daniel's Story*, was nominated for this year's Governor-General's Award for children's literature (she lost to Tim Wynne-Curry).

Writing was not Matas' first career choice. She began as an actor, appearing on such stages as the Tarragon and Young Peoples' Theatres in Toronto.

When she was pregnant with her first child, Rebecca, she began writing as a hobby.

Her first books were a combination of fantasy and science fiction: *The DNA Dimension* dealt with genetic engineering; *Zanu*about a world controlled by big business; and *Me, Myself and I* about utopia.

While living in Montreal with husband Per Brask, then artistic director of the Saidye Bronfman Centre, she learned about the rescue of nearly the entire Jewish community of Denmark by the Danish people.

"I thought that if I hadn't heard about this, chances are Canadian children hadn't either," she told *The CJN* in a recent interview.

The result was an incredibly moving and effective book, *Lisa*, the story of a Jewish girl in Denmark who, after working with the underground, is evacuated with her family to neutral Sweden. The story is continued in *Jesper*, which covers the last two years of the war.

"There was an amazing response," she said. "Kids liked it. It's about ordinary kids put into extraordinary situations."

For a change of pace, Matas turned her attention to Russia in the 1840s when the czar created battalions of teenagers. Jewish children were taken from their homes and tortured until they converted or died (many of them died anyway, because of the harsh conditions).

In *Sworn Enemies*, Matas deals with ethical issues. "I talked about how do you remain — or become — a moral person in an immoral society. What choices do you have to make?"

She saw many parallels between the Jewish communities of that day, forced to choose boys to fill the recruiting rosters, and the Jewish administration of, say, the Lodz Ghetto, who thought by handing over a small number of Jews to the Germans at a time, they could save the rest.

"They thought they could have some measure of control."

Matas' work came to the attention of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, who commissioned her to write a book to go along with an exhibit they called Daniel's Story.

Carol Matas

"I had to do a lot of research. I worked backward from the Lodz Ghetto, to find where people who were there came from, and forwards to find out what happened to the people deported from there."

The book is tied together by a series of train trips Daniel (who in the exhibit stood for any Jewish boy) took during his odyssey through the horrors of World War II, and his ever-decreasing supply of family pictures.

Next fall, her newest book will by published by Harper Collins. Called *The Burning Time* ("it has nothing to do with Jews this time!") it will deal with the persecution of those women who were considered witches in the Middle Ages.

She is also starting a series of books for readers in kindergarten to Grade 3. *The Lost Locket* and *Safari Adventure in Legoland* will be published in January.

Matas said she begins her books by deciding on a theme, and then works the plots and characters into that. The central character always survives, she said. "I'm a sucker for happy endings."

But the endings, while seemingly happy, are not necessarily so. "I deal with the cost of survival. My characters are not the same at the end as they were at the beginning."

Synagogue twins with settlement

TORONTO — A Toronto area synagogue has become the first in Canada to "twin" with an Israeli settlement in Judea and Samaria.

Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation, an Orthodox synagogue, is associating itself with the community of Beit El, as a sign of solidarity with all the Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan.

Beit El is located about 20 kilometres north of Jerusalem in the Binyamin region. Two Beit El residents have been killed by terrorist attacks since Israel signed the Declaration of Principles with the PLO on Sept. 13.

A synagogue board resolution last week recognized "the contribution to Israel of the residents of Yesha (Judea, Samaria and Gaza) and the Golan," and supported "their right to live in peace and security under Israeli sovereignty."

Board chairman Larry Zeifman said the synagogue's decision is a response to the conditions under which the residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza are now living.

"We, as Jews, have an obligation to assist other Jews in trouble," he said. "The Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza are in danger. We can't turn our backs on them."

Zeifman is urging synagogues across Canada to take similar action after receiving a request from the Yesha council that represents all the communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Now that Beth Avraham Yoseph is twinned with Beit El, a synagogue representative will deliver an official declaration of support to the community next week. A Beit El official will be visiting the synagogue on Jan. 8, 1994. A pen pal program will be set up so that children from both communities can communicate with each other. The synagogue is also invstigating a mission to Israel, to visit Beit El and other communities.

Aliza Herbst, executive director of the Binyamin regional council that governs Beit El is delighted with the synagogue's resolution.

"What we most need now is moral support to ease the isolation we feel and to strengthen us against the dangers we face. We're grateful that Beth Avraham Yoseph did just that," she said.

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Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

Domestic violence

Yes, in our community. On many occasions I have commented on domestic violence and verbal abuse within the Jewish family. The community's response to this problem has been exasperating. Jewish agencies are having trouble coping with both the volume and the complexity of the allegations at a time when funding has become particularly limited. Shelters, extra social workers, short term cash for abused women, wife abuse discussion groups, men's discussion groups, anger control therapy, and children's counselling are just a few of the services these agencies provide. All this costs money.

As demand for these services grows, and as these cases give rise to more and more litigation in the non-Jewish courts (a "*shande*"), each of us might ask what we can do to help alleviate the problem.

Counselling helps

If you are having a problem with "anger control" and are an abusive spouse or parent, seek counselling. Often, a private health benefit package through your employer will pay for part or all of a psychologist's or psychiatrist's fee. You may also want to seek out a good spiritual counsellor: a trusted Rabbi with experience in these matters (not all have it). Finally, seek services from your local Jewish agency, such as the Jewish Family and Child Service in Toronto, and ensure that the service is of good quality and comes well recommended. Speak to your family physician: it may be that the anger stems from a chemical imbalance beyond your control and that medication is part of the answer. He or she may then refer you to a psychiatrist, though getting an early appointment is often a function of who you know.

A wealth of literature on changing behaviour

There are also a number of excellent books and articles that may help you to modify your behaviour, though they're easier "read than done." Many of these are written from a uniquely Jewish perspective and can be found at any good Jewish book store. Aharon Feldman's *The River, The Kettle, and the Bird* is my favourite. It is written by an eminent scholar about the Torah's instruction to men on how to treat their wives. Few husbands will feel blameless by the time they finish this lucid, short, and tightly-written masterpiece.

Another excellent set of books is written by Sarah Chanah Radcliffe on Jewish family life and how to best control one's emotions, once again from a Torah viewpoint: *Aizer K'negdo, The Jewish Woman's Guide to Happiness in Marriage; Delicate Balance,* dealing with Jewish parenting; and *Teen Esteem,* for teenagers. I also recommend Miriam Adahan's *Emett,* a step-by-step guide to emotional maturity established through Torah; and her *Living With Difficult People (Including Yourself),* which deals with becoming responsible for your own actions.

But the most significant work is a cassette tape you can listen to on the way to work called *"Love and Marriage in the '90s"* by the late Rabbi Uziel Milevsky and issued by the Jewish educational outreach group Ohr-Somayach/JEP (tel. 886-5730). Rabbi Milevsky was one of the foremost Jewish thinkers of his generation and drew large crowds to his Toronto lectures.

Taking the first step

Modifying behaviour isn't easy, but the learning part can be fun. Services and books such as these request basic changes that take a great deal of time and effort which may not be immediately appreciated. However, our Sages say that it took a single Jew to take the first step after God split the Red Sea and before everyone began their trek to the Promised Land.

Do *you* have a first step to take? Or do you know someone who does?

John Syrtash is a litigation lawyer with the Toronto firm of Kronis, Rotsztain, Margles, Cappel & Gertler. Mr. Syrtash's preferred area of practice is Civil Litigation and Family Law. Neither Mr. Syrtash nor the law firm of Kronis, Rotsztain, Margles, Cappel & Gertler nor B'nai Brith Canada is liable for any consequences that may arise from any party relying upon the information in this material. Mr. Syrtash can be reached at (416) 484-4646.

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Visit to Yad Vashem gives educators new outlook on teaching the Holocaust

By JUDY SAUL

TORONTO — What kind of a person volunteers to spend three weeks of a summer vacation immersed in Holocaust study? Two teachers from Newtonbrook Secondary School in North York, that's who.

English teacher Haia Hason, the Israeli-born child of Holocaust survivors, signed up for a course in July 1992. She said she was "worried that within the next 20 years we won't have access to the survivors' stories any longer. Whose responsibility will it be then to tell the future generations?"

The three-week course is offered twice a year at the Yad Vashem. According to Miriam Geldbloom, co-chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, "its purpose it to teach the context and components of the Holocaust in secondary schools."

History teacher Gayle Edwards heard about Hason's experience and was intrigued. She applied and was accepted for the July 1993 session.

Edwards, a Christian, was surprised to find that 50 per cent of the class wasn't Jewish. However, she was the only Canadian.

Edwards wants to incorporate what she learned into the Grade 10 curriculum. "It was the most intensive history course I've ever taken," she said. "They traced anti-Semitism from pre-Roman times through the Holocaust and up to the present day."

Edwards said it was difficult to absorb the painful material. "We were saturated with horror. It was not easy to return the next day." She plans a different approach with her students. "The danger in focusing on the horror of this period is that students can move from shock or outrage to numbness and then to overload, where they just tune out."

The two teachers, along with a committee chaired by Liz Bromstein, helped plan Newtonbrook's Third Annual Holocaust Education Week. Students listened to survivors' testimonies and watched videos on the March of the Living and the Danish Resistance. Speeches were given by Alan Borovoy, counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Dr. Joel Dimitry, chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

Both teachers admit they returned from Jerusalem as changed women. Hason said she needed to see the Holocaust through her own eyes, not her parents'. Edwards said she will never teach history the same way again.

Hason said one lesson everyone should learn is the full name of the 27th of Nisan. In Israel, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah, Heroes and Martyrs Remembrance Day. She said those who died must be seen as heroes and not just as victims. And that is a lesson not only for Jews, but also for the world.

Hamilton Jewish high school draws out-of-town students

By MOURA WOLPERT

HAMILTON — Beth Jacob's religious high school and USY youth program has attracted students from the Kitchener-Waterloo area and from Cambridge, increasing the school's enrolment by about 20 students.

It's the first time such a large number of out-of-town teenagers is attending afternoon and Sunday morning classes here.

Furthermore, a new pre-USY Kadimah program for Grades 6 and 7 students has about 36 "enthusiastic" members, many of them from other schools, reports new education and youth director Lawrence Katz.

Originally from Norfolk, Va., Katz replaced acting principal Gloria Silverman in September. Now settled here with his wife and 4-year old son, Katz previously taught in Cincinnati and New Jersey. Most recently, he was education director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas in Texas.

His approach is cautious. Since "everything is going very smoothly," he does not intend to introduce any major changes. His main focus will be on the high school program and while he's not changed anything, he has begun to nudge a little.

Lawrence Katz

"Counter-programming," for instance, will provide an incentive for students to stay behind for the half-hour Sunday morning break, hopes Katz.

To halt the mass exodus to nearby doughnut and variety shops during the break, brief programs like a video on Camp Ramah may keep students in building.

Katz also asked for student input into the types of courses they find interesting. He hopes to have the answers by the beginning of the second semester in January.

He also introduced the successful Mitzvah Crib for charity. The Mitzvah Crib sits in the corridor outside the school office overflowing with donated items like clothes, toys and strollers.

Jewish Social Services "have first dibs," and whatever they can't use is distributed to shelters and agencies in the city, says Katz. "I myself am not a very creative person," he says modestly about his innovation.

He eventually hopes to replace class tzedakah projects with a school-wide, student-directed tzedakah program.

Katz is happy with what he has found here. The staff has remained the same. "Continuity is a big help in retaining students."

Getting kids to attend elementary school is not a problem, says Katz, and many students continue through Grades 8, 9 and 10. There have been many enquiries from parents of Hamilton Hebrew Academy students, who want their children to continue their Jewish education after graduating from the day school, he says.

"As long as people are interested, we'll provide 'whatever,'" says Katz with a smile.

Women's ORT to honor Axelrod

By MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG — For the first time in its history, Winnipeg Women's ORT has awarded its Woman of the Year award to the same woman two years in a row.

Winnipeg Women's ORT president Ruthie Rubin described honoree Ellen Axelrod as an exceptional person who has helped steer ORT's Thrift Shop through a rough time. The award, Rubin explained, is given to a member whose work may be taken for granted.

"Ellen is great. She volunteers for everything. She is always the first to ask how she can help. She never says no," said Rubin.

A single mother with a full-time job with the City of Winnipeg, Axelrod joined ORT seven years ago. She said she was attracted by ORT's philosophy about edueating children. She is currently president of Tikvah Chapter and vice-president of fundraising for the region.

"These are challenging economic times for fund raising organizations," Axelrod said. "I try to keep in contact with people who can help us."

The Thrift Shop's stock, she notes, was dwindling as people were trying to sell their seconds on consignment. Axelrod began to approach manufacturers. The program has proven to be quite successful.

She also raises money for the Canadian Cancer Society and the Manitoba Children's Museum. She said she finds fundraising to be very fulfilling.

Winnipeg Women's ORTs membership has been holding steady at about 350 members over the last couple of years, accroding to Rubin. Still, she said, times are tough and people don't have as much time for volunteer activities. She reports a good response to the latest membership brochure from Canadian Women's ORT's head office in Toronto.

Female sculptors hold exhibition

TORONTO — A group of eight Jewish female sculptors recently held an exhibition to inaugurate their newly formed co-operative, Stoneworks and Company.

Stoneworks and Company is comprised of Barbara Bender, Nadine Cowan, Naomi Reich Freudmann, Lilli Gilman, Edie Harlang, Cindy Kirsh, Helen Kirzner and Sandra Duba-Shubs.

One group of guests came from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. The artists guided them around the displays and encouraged them to 'see' the sculptures through touching.

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Organizations and People

What's New

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

DEADLINE REMINDER

Deadline for What's New and About People is Thursday, two weeks prior to publication. However, due to holiday changes, deadline for Jan. 13 edition was Wednesday, Dec. 22. Deadline for Jan. 20 edition is Jan. 6, as usual. I am at my desk on deadline days only to receive your calls and sort my mail.

Thursday, Dec. 23

CHANUKAH BALL

Thousands of Jewish singles age 22-49 will be coming from the tri-state area to attend the 18th Annual Chanukah Ball, 8 p.m. at the Palladium, sponsored by the Committee for Young Jewish Professionals in association with 10 major singles organizations. There will be separate areas for ages 22-35.

Tickets $20 in advance, $25 at the door. For more information call 212-234-1800, 914-725-1225 or 800-336-1002.

Sunday, Dec. 26

HAPPY MUSICAL HOUR

Concert pianist **Lola Julitta Burns** presents a wide selection of Jewish, Hebrew and popular music at a musical happy hour, 1:15-1:45 p.m., Terrace Gardens, 3705 Bathurst St.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

LA LECHE LEAGUE

La Leche League of North Bathurst presents There's a New Baby in Your Life, the second in a series of four monthly meetings. Topics include childbirth options, getting breastfeeding started and the family's relationship to the breastfed baby. Meetings are open to pregnant or nursing mothers who are interested in information, help and support for breastfeeding. Babies are welcome. Meeting at 222 Winding Lane, Thornhill, 8 p.m. For more information call **Robin**, 886-8364 or **Risa**, 738-8870.

Sunday, Jan. 2

JEWISH STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS

Jewish Storytelling Arts offers meetings the first Sunday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Open to all who wish to tell or listen to Jewish stories. For information, call 699-8914.

ORT CONVENTION

Women's Canadian ORT held its twenty-first national convention recently in Vancouver. Speaking at the convention were (from left), Michael Shain from London, director of information technology for World ORT Union; Edie Glazer, newly installed president of Women's Canadian ORT; Lee Maier from San Francisco, vice-president of Womens' American ORT; Michael Medved, international media critic who was the convention's keynote speaker; Lydia London, immediate past-president.

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AND WHAT ELSE IS NEW...

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

Yiddish language and literature will be part of the over 900 sessions at the Modern Language Association's annual conference, Dec. 27-30 in Toronto. Yiddish sessions include: The Dimensions of Yiddish, Dec. 28, 10:15-11:30 a.m.; Yiddish Narrative Reconsidered, Dec. 29, 10:15-11:30 a.m. Both will be held at the Royal York Hotel. For more information call **Sylvia Lustgarten**, 635-2883, ext. 155.

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY, JCC BLOOR Y

The Toronto Jewish Film Society 1994 season features a series of six films running from January to November. Fee of $35 entitles members to a guest pass to one film as well as free admission to all screenings. Films are screened at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall, 317 Dundas St. W., Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Single tickets go on sale 1/2 hour before showtime. First film, *Freud Leaving Home* is on Jan. 16. For more information call **Luni**, 924-6211.

TORAH TOTS

Registration is going on for pre-nursery, nursery and junior and senior kindergarten programs at Torah Tots, 55 Guardsman Rd., Thornhill. Program includes dance and creative movement, Hebrew, Jewish heritage, computers and field trips. For more information call **Goldie Plotkin**, Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, 886-0420.

LOOKING FOR BOOK FANATICS

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care needs volunteers to assist in one of its many libraries. Hours are flexible. Call the Volunteer department, 785-2850.

LEAH POSLUNS THEATRE SCHOOL

Winter classes, introductory to advanced, at Leah Posluns Theatre School include creative drama for children; beginners acting for teens and young adults; film and television for teens; acting techniques, improvisation and scene study for adults. July summer stage program for children and teens also available. Call 636-1880, ext. 287/298.

YIDDISH CLASSES

Learn or improve your Yiddish in classes featuring conversation, culture, literature and song. Winter term begins week of January 10. Classes given in several locations in North York and Toronto. For information, call **Sylvia Lustgarten**, Committee for Yiddish, 635-2883, ext. 155.

TEMPLE KOL AMI

Temple Kol Ami, a liberal Reform congregation serving the Vaughan and Richmond Hill areas announces the election of its new board of directors. New officers include **Barry Blostein**, president; **Barry Stein**, vice-president; **Karen Paiken**, secretary; **Pekka Sinervo**, treasurer; **David Troister**, past-president. Other directors are **Donald Baumander, Arlene Blostein, Susan Kochen, Lori Levine, Susan Opatowsky, Peter Sewell, Peter Vanek** and **Robert Warren.**

LEARN TO SKATE

Adults and seniors can learn to skate or improve skills on the ice at a nine-week course beginning Jan. 5, offered by North York Parks and Recreations Department. Skaters meet Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Mel Lastman Square Ice Rink, in front of North York City Hall. Cost, $46 adults, $23 seniors. For information call 395-6015 or register at North York City Hall. Refer to program no. 5893.

SOLEL — MISSISSAUGA

Remember the 7 a.m. Tuesday morning minyan and breakfast at Solel Congregation in Mississauga. Regular services, 8:30 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. Saturdays.

TINY TOTS ADVENTURE CLUB

Children up to age 5 and a parent or caregiver enjoy stories, crafts, songs, play and films, 10:45-11:45 a.m., Jan. 7 - March 11, Centennial Library, 578 Finch Ave. W. Call 395-5490 to register.

SPEAK, READ AND WRITE HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., announces registration is open for winter courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Morning courses run Monday, Jan. 17 - April 25, 9:40-11:05. Evening courses run Tuesday, Jan. 18 - April 26, 7:30-9. Classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 14

NEW EXECUTIVE

Bialik Hebrew Day School elected and installed its new executive recently. New chair of the board is Barry Waltman (left) shown with new vice-chair Anita Goren. (Mollie Rothman photo)

sessions. Free introductory private lesson for beginners. The instructor for the beginners' course is **Joseph Klinger**, educator and founder of the Israeli ulpan method of teaching Hebrew in Toronto. For consultation and registration, call 787-0197.

FAMILY TO FAMILY

The Community Integration Program seeks Canadian families to reach out to recently arrived Jewish families from the former Soviet Union. Be an important link for a Russian family, help them discover their Jewish heritage and develop a special friendship with them. For more information call **Selena Kovshoff** at the JCC, CIP office, 636-1880, ext. 261.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family and Child Service offers the following groups: One Marriage, Two Religions (begins in Jan.); Widows/Widowers (begins Jan. 17); Single Parent Challenge (begins Jan. 24); Stress Management (begins Jan. 25 for three weeks). For more information concerning fees and registration, call **Pat Lieberman** at 638-7800.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Senior Care (Community Services to Jewish Elderly) requires volunteers to provide escort and/or transportation for their clients to medical appointments, shopping, banking and social activities within North York. Volunteers assist by providing links to the outside world for those unable to use conventional transporation. Drivers are reimbursed for gasoline and parking expenses. Senior Care's Volunteer Escort/Transporation Service is funded by the New Horizons Program - Health and Welfare Canada. For more information call **Arnold Foss**, 635-2860.

A LITTLE NIGHT MAGIC

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Sisterhood presents A Little Night Magic, a spellbinding evening of mystery and enchantment on Saturday, Jan. 8, 8 p.m. Light kosher dinner and show, $25 per person. Call the sisterhood hotline, 771-6711 for reservations.

CENTRE FOR LIBERAL JEWISH LEARNING

Rabbi Zalman Schachter Shalomi opens a week of in depth Judaic study on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2-5 p.m. at the Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee. Fee is $20 with preregistration and $25 at the door. A mini-course follows Jan. 10-13. These walk-in classes, taught by local Reform rabbis are $5 with no preregistration required. Childcare is available at $5 per child, by preregistration only. Kolel is an adult education centre serving university-age and up, regardless of synagogue affiliation or extent of personal observance. To preregister or receive the week's schedule, call 660-3154.

for seniors

Overbrook Cultural Club together with New Jewish Fraternal Association presents a video, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2 p.m. at Lodzer Centre, 12 Heaton St. Members, no charge; non-members, $2.

Young at Heart Seniors announces that medical insurance for travelling is going up. Plane leaving for the Feb. 2 to March 2 Miami trip at 9 a.m., Terminal 2.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club upcoming events - the movie *Funny Face*, a comedy, Dec. 22, 2 p.m.; Sunday dance, Jan. 9 in Community Centre; Saturday Dance, Jan. 8, 7-10 p.m. in Clubhouse; pre-New Year's dinner/dance, Wednesday, Dec. 29, $20 members, $25 non-members, includes kosher chicken dinner; North

[Cont'd. on page 21]

Organizations and People

Israeli helps to promote Canada to outside interests

TORONTO — You can take the boy out of Canada, but you can't take Canada out of the boy.

Such is the case with Winnipeg-born Daniel Ben-Natan (born Lepkin). Ben-Natan's family moved to Israel when he was nine. Even though the move was over 40 years ago, Ben-Natan is still very much Canadian and proud of it.

Ben-Natan is associate vice-president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and director of development and public relations. He is also president of the International Council of Canadian Studies, an association of more than 5,000 professors teaching about Canada in 16 countries.

Ben-Natan was in Canada recently for the Council. Avoiding the issue of the warm weather he had left behind, Ben-Natan spoke enthusiastically about the Council's activities and accomplishments.

"The Council is doing a tremendous job at promoting the already favorable image of Canada abroad," he said.

"We are more objective than local Canadians. We have a comparative outlook, and the perspective of outsiders looking in."

Following the release of the Symons Report in the early '70s, a Crown report which showed the study of Canada abroad was minimal, Hebrew University established a Canadian Studies Program in 1976.

Daniel Ben-Natan

Program became university centre

In 1992, the program became a university centre, sponsored by the Canadian government and Ralph and Roz Halbert of Toronto. Today, the Halbert Centre is one of the most active Canadian studies centres in the world. More than 30 Canadian professors have studied or taught at the Hebrew University thanks to the centre.

Ben-Natan's "Canada bug" didn't stop with the establishment of the Centre. In 1985, he initiated the Israel Association for Canadian Studies, and in 1986 he joined the International Council of Canadian Studies. In 1991, Ben-Natan was elected president of the Council for a two-year term. He is the first Israeli to hold this position.

The majority of Council funding comes from the Department of External Affairs. To offset government cutbacks, Ben-Natan has approached the Ottawa-Carleton Economic Development Commission.

"We are not just going to Canadian exporters to ask for funding. We are providing them with objective and sound knowledge of the economies and industries of other countries, and telling others about investing in and trading with Canada," said Ben-Natan.

"Through research conducted under the auspices of the Council, we can provide valuable information to Canadians who want to trade or invest in the region."

The Council has also established the 25-member Council of Friends, chaired by Jean Pigott.

"The Council wants Canadians to be proud of their country. Canada has much to offer and the Council is getting the message out there," said Ben-Natan.

For someone who left Canada so many years ago, Canada sure hasn't left him.

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 20]

York Board of Education courses including bridge, line-dancing and yoga, start week of Jan. 10. For upcoming events and trips call 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club resumes all programs Jan. 10. For information on activities call **Lena**, 785-5773 or **Ruth**, 224-5923.

Remember the Golden Book to mark special occasions. Your donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. Call **Dorothy Bloomfield**, 787-1526.

Wagman Centre Self-Help Widowers Group, 55 and over, meets every other Friday, 9:30-11 a.m. in the Wagman Centre board room, 55 Ameer Ave. For more information call **Paula David**, 789-5131, ext. 2271.

Club Hadar meets every Monday and Thursday, 1-4 p.m. at Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 501 Clark Ave. W., meeting room 2. Activities include Tai Chi, painting, discussions, bingo, cards. For information, call **Violet Landman**, 886-2625.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays, 15 Hove St., (B'nai Brith Building). For information, call 783-9453.

Lifestyle Retirement Communities presents **Aldo Maggiorotti**, movie collector and lecturer, who will screen a film presentation of Broadway Musicals and Comedy from the '50s, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2 p.m. On Thursday, Dec. 30, 2 p.m., **Felicia Carmelly**, psychologist and facilitator, outlines Learning to Forgive. Admission to both events is free, but seating is limited. Reserve a spot by calling **Marlene White**, 785-1511.

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Phone 225-2112.

Friendship Circle for people 55 and over and living on their own meets every other Thursday afternoon. Refreshments served 2:30 p.m., program begins 3:30 p.m. Dec. 23 program is a delightful Israeli movie. Fee $1.

Drawing and sketching is a 12 week course with instructor **Janice Hudson**, beginning Jan. 5, 1-4 p.m. Fee, $15 members, $22 non-members. There is a small materials fee. For more information call **Norma Steiner.**

at the JCC

A bronze Medallion and Cross course starts Sunday, Jan. 9 at Bloor Y branch. Fee is $65 plus certification fee. An N.L.S. course also begins on Jan. 9. For more information, call **Frances Fraser**, 924-6211.

An eight-week Red Cross leader course starts at Bloor Y branch, Tuesday, Jan. 11. Fee is $65 plus the course manual.

Swim to Israel will be starting soon. More details to follow.

BAYCREST NURSES HONORED

Four nurses at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care have received awards made possible by an endowment fund established by Saul and Fela Lichtblau. The award will enable the nurses to upgrade their academic and practical skills. Standing from left, Saul Lichblau; Rena Lichtblau; Rosalee Berlin; Sonia Noble and Hartley Lichtblau. Seated from left are Kathryn Nicholson; Anna Korol.

CZF launches public speaking contest

TORONTO — The prize of a round trip to Israel is attracting young people from across the province to participate in the third annual Ontario Public Speaking Competition sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation.

The competition is open to those aged 15 to 18 and those aged 19 to 23. Heats will begin Jan. 9 in the older age group and Feb. 6 for the younger category. Prominent community members will act as judges and moderators.

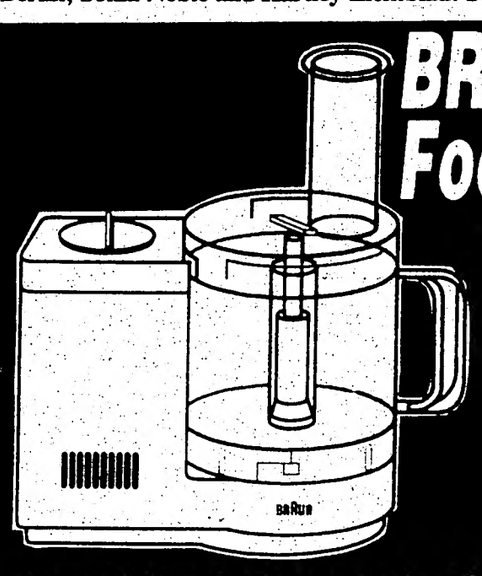
Shalom Shachter, head of the project, said competitors aged 19 to 23 can choose between a "new Zionism" with the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO; the rise of racism after the end of the Cold War; and the role of women in Jewish continuity.

The category topics for those 15 to 18 are Israel as an economic superpower; only Jews living in Israel have the right to comment on Israeli government policy; and the strength of Israel depends on the strength of Diaspora communities.

Entry forms are available at many area schools and at the Canadian Zionist Federation office, 3995 Bathurst St., Suite 300. Phone 633-3988 or Fax 633-4382.

BEIT HALOCHEM ELECTS NEW BOARD

Beit Halochem Canada elected a new executive at its annual meeting on Dec. 2. New president Michael Sax is seen here with outgoing president Shaila Gottlieb. Other newly-elected officers include: Shai Schachter, chair of the board; Alex Eisen, vice-president; Ralph Snow, vice-president; Herman Gottesman, treasurer; Jeanette Grosman, secretary; and Sara Cogan, member-at-large.



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Organizations and People

CUMMER LODGE GETS TORAH

Jewish residents of Cummer Lodge, a Metropolitan Toronto Home for the Aged, welcomed the arrival of a Torah recently for their biweekly Saturday morning services. The Torah was donated by Arie Nerison, president, on behalf of the Beaches Hebrew Institute on Kenilworth Avenue one of the oldest synagogues in Toronto, and is the first Torah the residents have had. Volunteers and visitors lead the services. Many of the participants have to be wheeled into the services in the auditorium in their wheelchairs, or, in some cases, on their beds. Present at the service was (from left) Moe Mayoff, 83; Benjamin Perez, 6, a visitor; Carl Rees (holding Torah) and Mrs. Hannah Rees, volunteers. [Graphic Artists photo]

Geist helped develop Bathurst Lawn cemetery

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —When David Geist attended the funeral of a fellow member of the Warssawer Lodzer Society in 1973 and saw the coffin lowered into a grave with several inches of water in it, he was profoundly shocked. He also noticed that gravestones were sloping and sinking in the mud.

This eventually led Geist, a real estate and land developer, to become involved in the affairs of Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park, where he was president for 12 years, and helped initiate improvements in drainage, roads and landscaping.

"It was a mudhole 20 years ago," said Ernie Marmurek, a fellow member of the cemetery executive which now represents 58 synagogues and societies.

Geist died of a heart attack in October 1992 at the age of 77, while attending a meeting on cemetery business. His wife, Anna, died three months later, and they lie buried side by side in plots at Bathurst Lawn. Their stones were unveiled on August 8, 1993.

"My father believed in facing death straight up and he wanted his fellow Jews to have a dignified burial," his daughter Rose Goldstein, wife of Dr. Roger Goldstein, recalled recently. The Geists have two other children, Sylvia and John, both in Toronto.

Born in the small Polish town of Razmine on Nov. 27, 1915, Geist married in Poland in 1940. He escaped the Nazis to serve as an officer in the Russian Army. In 1948, the family came to Toronto where Geist worked initially as a tailor. Later he became active in land development in Burlington.

Substantial donations to charities

Rabbi David Monson said Geist's improvements and new methods at Bathurst Lawn helped the cemetery to effect economies, including long-term contracts for tending the graves, that allowed the Association to make substantial donations to charities in Israel, including Bar Ilan University and Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. The emergency wing at the Jerusalem hospital has a plaque marking the Bathurst Lawn contribution.

One of Geist's initiatives was to promote the purchase of a house that could be used as an office and headquarters for the cemetery, Monson recalled. "The neighbors objected to that use for the property and tried to prevent it, but Geist was a determined and patient man, and he won out, with the help of North York Council."

Montreal artist releases book

TORONTO —Artist Ghitta Caiserman-Roth of Montreal has no regrets that her father the late Hanane M. Caiserman, co-founder of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), wrote puff pieces about her work in a Yiddish weekly and that her late mother, Sarah, flogged her paintings to family friends.

Celebrating the publication of a beautifully illustrated new book with co-author Rhoda Cohen, Caiserman-Roth said a budding artist needs the ego build-up that parents supply. *Insights, Discoveries, Surprises*, on the creative process in drawing, published by McGill-Queen's University Press, was launched at the Art Gallery of Ontario recently.

Hanane Caiserman wrote stories about his daughter's work under a pseudonym, and he paid for her lessons with Alexander Bercovitch, a painter and set designer from Russia. "Whenever he gave me a birthday gift it was related to art, in fact he gave me copies of a book by the famous American urban painter Ben Shahn on three different birthdays."

'Certain Jewish morality'

She believes there is "a certain Jewish morality" in her work because of the close involvement of her parents in Jewish affairs. Her father, general secretary of the CJC, was one of the first Canadian Jews to visit survivors in Europe after the war and she has an adopted sister from one of the camps.

Aside from purchases of her work by her mother's friends, she sold her first painting to Group of Seven member A.Y. Jackson at a national touring show of Canadian artists. It was a painting in oil on masonite board of leaves in the yard, with tiny figures of her parents in the backyard.

As a young artist, she went to live with a French-Canadian family in the Gaspe. "A large group of painters went down to sketch the famous Perce Rock while I stayed behind and painted a woman peeling potatoes in the kitchen. That seems to have forecast what my interests would be."

Her co-author is a psychoanalyst in Montreal and the book resulted from taped conversations about the creative process that the authors had after four hours of drawing sessions. — B.R.

SINGLES EVENTS

Singles events is an advertising feature of The Canadian Jewish News. **Deadline is Monday, 5:00 p.m. , 10 days preceding issue date.** For rates or to place an ad,please call Joe at 422-2528.

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they might have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

******Traditionally our largest party of the year!** Metro Toronto Singles presents:Our 7th annual Chanukah party Friday Dec. 24th from 7p.m. at **Berlin & Yuk Yuk's Uptown** 2335 Yonge St. 11/2 blocks north of Yonge and Eglinton.

Over 850 people attend annually. Once Berlin has reached capacity, people will be admitted first come first served from Yuk Yuk's downstairs Cover $20.

We apologize in advance for those who are not able to get in for this year's party and we will see you in 1994. **222-7111******

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Cultural immersion awaits student in Guyana

By LORI DENNIS

TORONTO — Many of us only dream about exotic trips and far away places. But for Jessica Steinberg, 21, being able to completely immerse herself in various cultures is critical to her understanding of the world around her and to the success of her post-secondary studies.

Steinberg, a third year York University student in the honors program for environmental studies and, concurrently, a first year student in the education program, will be living in Guyana this spring as one of 20 participants in a three-month long youth-to-youth exchange program sponsored by Youth Challenge International.

Youth Challenge International is a non-profit oraganization that encourages young people to become actively involved in responsible projects in Canada and abroad. Selected participants — ages 18-25 — are carefully chosen to live and work with peers from different nations and undertake to create projects in the areas of health, community service and the environment in remote or developing regions.

The participants must face many rigorous challenges before being selected for these adventures which take place several times a year. First there's the selection process: participation in a survival weekend, in order to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the potential candidates.

"We were all taken to Scanlon Creek, about an hour north of Toronto. There we were given only the bare necessities and forced to make it on our own. Our food was rationed and we had to make our own tents from tarp, string and pegs," says Steinberg. "Of the 45 of us who went on this weekend, only 20 of us were chosen to go to Guyana, depending on how well we did."

Steinberg, who did a five-month community service trip to Thailand in 1991 and lived in the mountains with the hill tribes, who was a canoe tripper at Camp Northland/B'nai Brith for 10 years and whose parents took the family on many camping trips, says she has the rugged outdoors in her blood and found the initiation to be more than manageable.

But getting to Guyana this May also means raising $3,500 — another mandatory challenge which she plans to meet by writing to different companies, organizations and service clubs and by organizing raffles and selling roses on Valentine's Day. Other preparations include getting into top physical condition, which Steinberg does by running three to four times a week and by getting emotionally and intellectually prepared for living in difficult conditions in an unfamiliar land.

When they arrive in Guyana on May 7th, the group's first mandate will be to communicate with the Guyanese villagers to get their input on the kind of help they need. "It's really important that we don't just step into their territory and tell them what we think they need," says Steinberg. "Projects may include anything from immunization programs, school or community building renovations, scientific research into the rainforest or an archeological dig."

The trip will constantly present new challenges and new places to visit, as the group moves from village to village throughout their stay. Upon their return to their respective homes this July, participants are obliged to transform their newly developed skills into some kind of possible action. Steinberg already has two presentations lined up — one at the Thornhill Lion's Club and one in her own faculty at York.

Steinberg, who is a member of the Jewish Student Federation and is actively involved in her synagogue, Beth Tikvah, looks forward to finishing her studies in a few years. While she plans to teach one day, she would like to spend a few years travelling first.

"When I came back from Thailand, it gave me a new perspective on life. I became more focused on what I want to do and less interested in being caught up in materialism. The experience gave me a broader sense of what the world is all about. I want to see more," she says.

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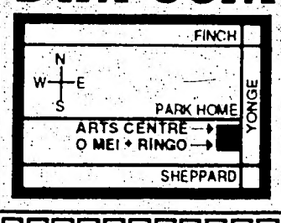

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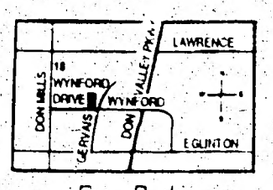

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Travel

TRAVEL TALK

By BILL GLADSTONE

Israel Notes: The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) is sponsoring a 15-day tour of three Middle Eastern countries June 1994 on the theme: The Middle East in the Peace Process.

Although Jewish groups have participated in trips combining Egypt and Israel since the signing of the Camp David Accord 15 years ago, ARZA claims that the addition of Jordan is unprecedented for a Jewish tour group.

"We hope and believe that this tour represents a significant step in enlarging cultural understanding and economic ties between Israel and her Arab neighbors," says ARZA's director, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch. All flights are on El Al Israel Airlines except the Cairo-to-Amman leg, which is on Egyptair.

ARZA plans a second tour In the Wake of the Handshake for late October 1994 and a third in February 1995. For information on these or other ARZA-sponsored trips, call 212-683-5935 or write ARZA Israel Travel, 11 East 26th St., New York NY 10010.

Attention Physicians and Dentists: In The Footsteps of Maimonides is the theme of a mission to Israel that the United Jewish Appeal is planning for physicians and dentists and their spouses March 6 to 16, 1994.

Tour sites

Besides learning about recent breakthroughs in medical procedures, participants may expect to be briefed on the peace process, tour recent archeological excavations, visit historic and religious sites, and celebrate Shabbat at the Western Wall.

The mission is being promoted primarily in the United States but Canadians are certainly welcome. Contact Steve Reitman or Elana Rimmon at 13425 Ventura Blvd., Suite 300, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423, or phone 818-386-0100.

Calling All Jewish Genealogists: Last June, an international conference on Jewish genealogy drew some 240 participants to Toronto's Park Plaza Hotel. The next such conference is scheduled at the Jerusalem Crowne Plaza (formerly the Hilton) in Israel, April 29 to May 5, 1994.

Besides a full roster of speakers on subjects of Jewish and family history, the program includes visits to essential reference libraries and museums like Yad Vashem and Beth Hatefutsoth, as well as tours of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Masada and the Judean Desert. The conference is being sponsored by *Avotaynu*, the leading journal of Jewish genealogy, as well as by the Israel Genealogical Society. Contact: Avotaynu/1994 Seminar, P.O. Box 900, Teaneck, N.J. 07666. U.S.

* * *

Notes from All Over: Hong Kong, the nearby Portuguese territory of Macao, and the Chinese province of Guangdong have joined forces to lure visitors to the region known as the Pearl River Delta.

Explains Lily Shum, director of the Hong Kong Tourist Association for Canada: "With more and more regions in the world banding together to promote tourism, it was essential that we combine our resources with those of our neighbors to remain the number one destination in Asia."

A former hippie-era commune in New Mexico has been transformed into a bed and breakfast inn. Situated on a low mesa about 12 miles from the town of Taos, the so-called New Buffalo Commune once attracted the likes of Janis Joplin, Timothy Leary, Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda. Today it welcomes anyone with cash or a major credit card.

Located outside Detroit, the 240-acre Henry Ford Museum complex pays homage to one of America's most noted industrialists with a huge collection of antique cars in a hall larger than six football fields. Ford was also a notorious anti-Semite who published the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. I wonder if the museum, which is just north of the intersection of I-75 and the Southfield Freeway, attempts to document this less savory aspect of his character?

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating, tobogganing and ice-fishing are some winter activities that guests may enjoy at The Briars, a country resort situated at Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe. The 200-acre site, filled with majestic spruce, cedar and birch trees, offers relaxation for city dwellers needing a quick escape. It's just a one hour drive north of Toronto.

* * *

The Last Word: Perhaps the earliest and still the most famous tourist attraction in the lower Great Lakes region is Niagara Falls. "Every American bride is taken there, and the sight of the stupendous waterfall must be one of the earliest, if not the keenest, disappointments in American married life," Victorian-era writer Oscar Wilde once observed. A master of epigrammatic and sardonic wit, Wilde characterized the falls as follows: "Simply a vast unnecessary amount of water going the wrong way and then falling over unnecessary rocks."

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• Color TV • Daily Maid Service • Free Shopping Service • Oceanfront Boardwalk • Entertainment • Daily Synagogue Services • Sabbath Elevator • Parking Available
SPECIAL SEASON RATES
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PASSOVER
March 23-April 4
Breakfast & Dinner -2 Seders
from $1699
Led by Lawrence Cherniak
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Under the General Management of Alex Smilow
Glatt Kosher
Sans Souci Spa & Resort Miami Beach
Oceanfront on the boardwalk at 32st
Under the supervision of Rabbi Goldglanz formerly of the Caribbean Hotel
3 Meals Daily • Free Open Bar • Salad Bar During Dinner
Nightly Entertainment • Beatiful Shul • Daytime Activities
FREE USE OF MILLION DOLLAR SPA
DEC. 23-JAN. 3, 1994 from SINGLES $235* 7 Days 6 Nights pp/dbl occ. std room add 20% for tips & service charges
DECEMBER - MARCH CHILDREN $10 per Night Sharing room with 2 adults
NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 20 from $199* 8 Days / 7 Nights
DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 17 from $59* c.p. DAILY
Canadian Dollars accepted at par December 1- January 6 and March 1- 24 daily rates only. Passport required.
TOLL FREE 800- 327-8470 • 305-531-8261
*RATES ARE PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY / STANDARD ROOM

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MIAMI BEACH'S #1 LUXURY KOSHER HOTEL
GLATT KOSHER
NEW for '94 Beginning Jan. 5 Complimentary Hot Lunch Served Daily
WINTER SPECIALS
Dec. 17 - Jan. 11 $37.50 Per Person • Double Occ. E.P. Without Meals Includ. Cont. Breakfast
Jan. 11 - Mar. 8 $40.00 Per Person • Double Occ. E.P. Without Meals Includ. Cont. Breakfast
- Olympic Heated Pool
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- Oceanfront Boardwalk
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- Live Music Twice Daily
- Color TV In All Rooms
- Private Tennis Courts on Premises

UNDER NEW GENERAL MANAGER RABBI GIMPEL ORIMLAND
SPECIAL RATES FOR LONG STAYS
PASSOVER '94 Mar. 25 - Apr. 4 Reserve Early For A Wonderful Family Holiday!
BEAUTIFUL FURNISHED EFFICIENCIES AVAILABLE
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Doral-Ryder Open
Includes: Luxurious Accommodations • 3 Glatt Kosher Meals Daily • Conducted & Private Seder Services • Synagogue on Premises • Entertainment • Lectures • Gala Tea Room • Supervised Children's Programs • Free Golf • Spa Facilities
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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
NOV. 29 - DEC. 20
$215 Per Week Per Person Double Occ.
INCLUDING MEALS
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DEC. 17 - JAN. 12
From $39 Daily Per Person Double Occ. E.P.
INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 100% Renovated Rooms
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- Children's Playground
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BOOK EARLY FOR PASSOVER FAMILY HOLIDAYS
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THE ULTIMATE BAR/BAT MITZVAH & FAMILY TOURS TO ISRAEL
2 DEPARTURES JULY 11 & AUG. 1, 1994
2ND INFORMATION EVENING TO FILL REMAINING SEATS WILL BE HELD SOON.
Call for an appointment and to obtain itinerary prices.
WE HAVE THE BEST VALUE FOR YOUR $$
Don't make your decision until you speak to us!
UNBEATABLE AIR FARES & HOTEL RATES TO ISRAEL WINTER '93
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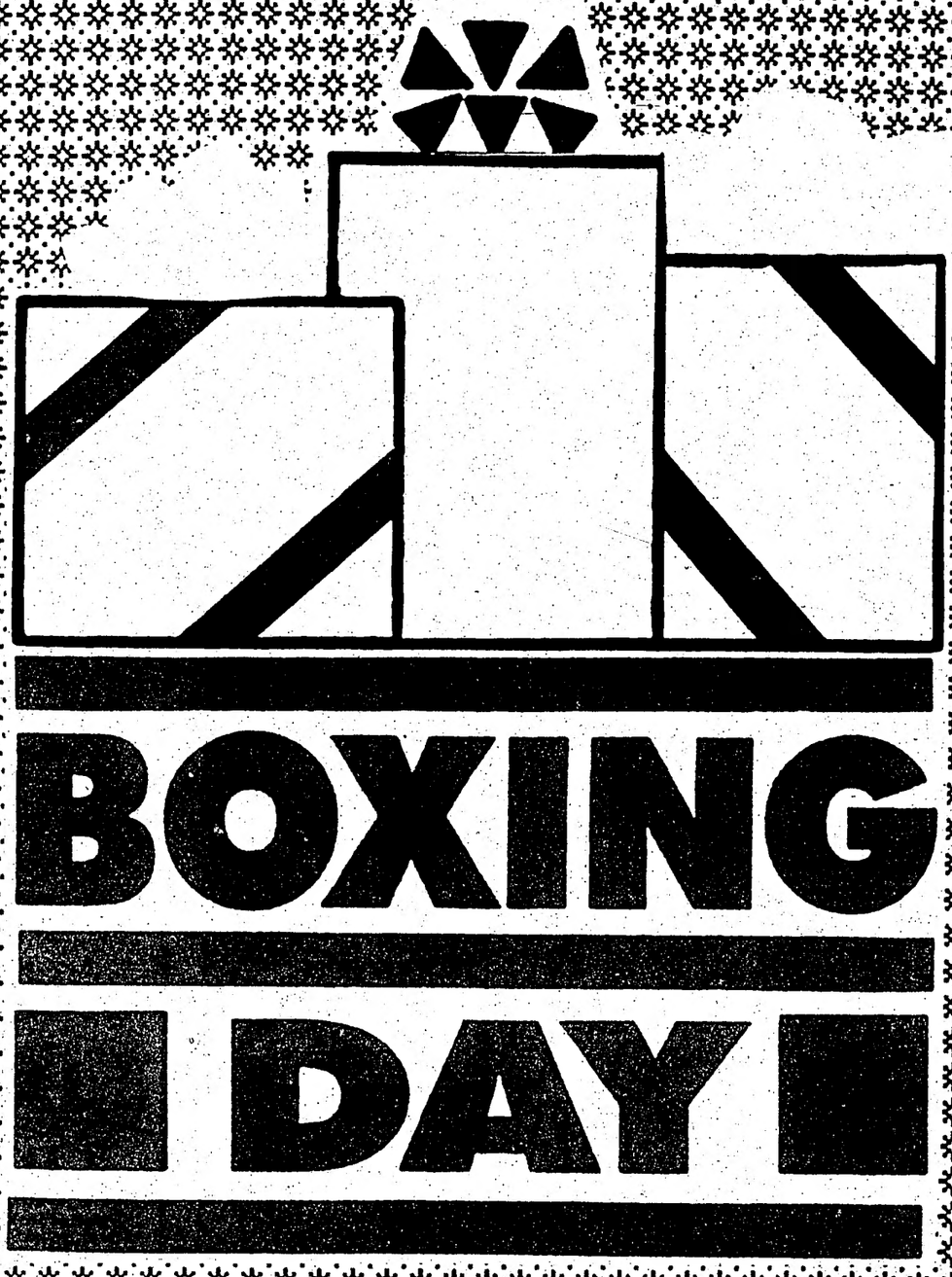

BOXING DAY

BOXING WEEK BLOWOUT SALE
SAVINGS UP TO 75%

STARTING DEC. 27 THROUGH DEC. 31

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING • CRIB PRODUCTS
COMFORTERS and COMFORTER SETS
SHEET SETS • BLANKETS • TABLECLOTHS
TOWELS AND MUCH MORE
• DURING OUR BOXING DAY SALE YOU PAY NO GST!

SHEET SETS	
TWIN	$16.99
DOUBLE/FULL	$24.99
QUEEN	$29.99
KING	$35.99
UNBELIEVABLE!	

COMFORTERS	
TWIN	$25.99
DOUBLE	$32.00
QUEEN	$34.99
KING	$36.99

PRINTED COMFORTER SETS	
TWIN	$57.99
DOUBLE	$76.99
QUEEN	$85.99
KING	$95.99
INCL. BEDSKIRT & SHAMS FANTASTIC DEAL!	

100% DOWN & FEATHER PILLOWS	
100% COTTON COVER	
STANDARD	$15.49
STANDARD TWIN PAK	$29.99
QUEEN	$18.49
YOU'LL PAY TRIPLE ELSEWHERE	

TOWELS	
100% COTTON	
BATH	$2.99
HAND	$1.99
WASH	$ .99
SUPER DEAL!	

JUVENILE COMFORTERS
JUMBO TWIN $20.00
ASSORTED STYLES & COLORS
3 PIECE CRIB COMFORTER
SETS ONLY $39.99
C/W COMFORTER, BUMPER GUARD & FITTED CRIB SHEET
ASSORTED STYLES & COLORS
WOW! WHAT A DEAL

CRIB PRODUCTS
MANY OTHER CRIB PRODUCTS ON SALE. COME AND SEE THESE INCREDIBLE VALUES!
CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
LARGE ASSORTMENT AND STYLES OF CHILDRENS CLOTHING, SOCKS, BOYS BRIEFS, GIRLS PANTIES AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.
DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE GREAT DEALS

BOY'S & GIRL'S 2 PIECE FLEECE SETS
STARTING AT ONLY $10.99
MANY ASSORTED COLORS & STYLES
2 - 6X
BOY'S & GIRLS 100% COTTON COVER-ALLS
STARTING AT ONLY $9.99
ASSORTED COLORS & STYLES
6M - 24M

J. P. DIAMOND
61 PIPPIN ROAD
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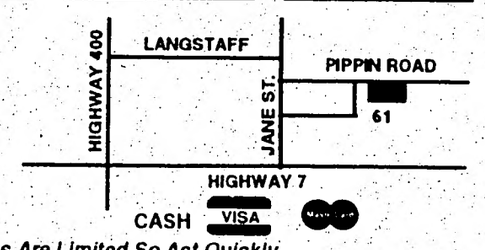
HOURS:
MON.-WED. 9 - 6 P.M.
THURS.-FRI. 9 - 9 P.M.
SAT. 9 - 6 P.M.
SUN. 9 - 5 P.M.



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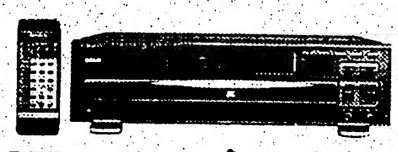
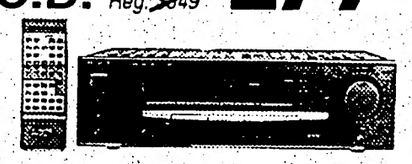
Quantities Are Limited So Act Quickly

HOME, BUSINESS AND CAR INSTALLATION AVAILABLE • *17 Years Serving You*

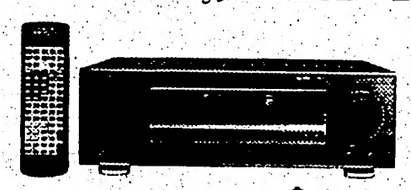
DP1050 C.D. *Reg. ~~$229~~* **$129**



DPR5750 C.D. *Reg. ~~$349~~* **$279**

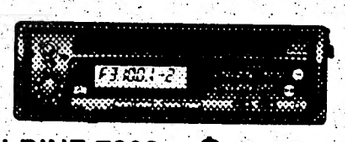


KRA5080 RECEIVER *Reg. ~~$349~~* **$279**



KRV8050 - Top of Line RECEIVER *Reg. ~~$999~~* **$789**

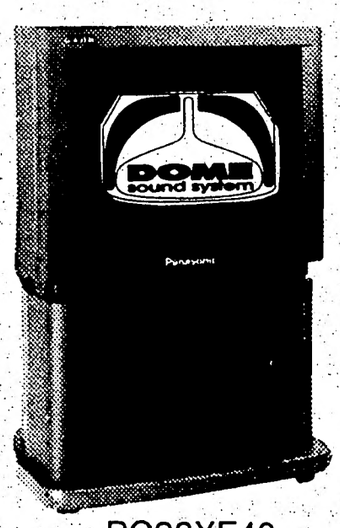
KD-CFM601 *Reg. ~~$699~~* **$499**



ALPINE 7802 C.D. *Reg. ~~$899~~* **$299**

ALL YAMAHA EQUIPMENT IN STOCK: FIND YOUR BEST PRICE AND WE WILL BEAT IT!

ROTEL	REG.	NOW
RT845 TUNER	~~$399~~	$247
RB840 INT. AMP.	~~$699~~	$455
RX855 RECEIVER	~~$799~~	$465
RD865 INT. AMP	~~$699~~	$399
RX850 RECEIVER	~~$579~~	$332
RTC850 PRE-AMP & RB890 AMP	~~$2198~~	$1199
BRITISH FIDELITY AS IS	~~$2289~~	$900



- PC33XF40 **$2199**
- PC29XF40 **$1599**
- PC29XF30 **$1299**

FREE STAND
FREE DELIVERY
FREE Extended warranty (2 extra years)
FREE BONUS REMOTE

PV-4361K
- 4-Head Hi-Fi
- DynAmorphous Metal Head
- VCR-Plus+™
- Front A/V Inputs
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MX7 JVC MINI *Reg. ~~$999~~* **$849**
JVC HRJ 200 VCR
- with bonus cassette
- with 2 year warranty

Reg. ~~$319~~ **$299**
JVC HRJ 404 *Reg. ~~$399~~* **$349**
- withVCR Plus
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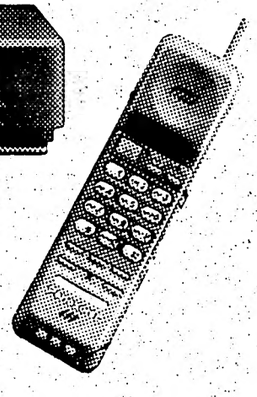
JVC 1312 *Reg. ~~$299~~* **$ 249**
JVC 27CM4 *Reg. ~~$799~~* **$739**
JVC AV31BP3 31" TV PIP *Reg. ~~$1499~~* **$1199**
JVC AV31BM3 31" TV *Reg. ~~$1395~~* **$1099**
31" STANDS *Reg. ~~$149~~* **$79**



CORDLESS PHONE KXT 3610 *Reg. ~~$99~~* **$69.00**

SOUND CHARGER PHONES:
KXT 4035 **$170.00**
KXT 4050 **$199.00**
KXT 3730 **$139.00**

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FREE SET OF TDK EARPHONES WITH EVERY PURCHASE
• convenient carrying case included

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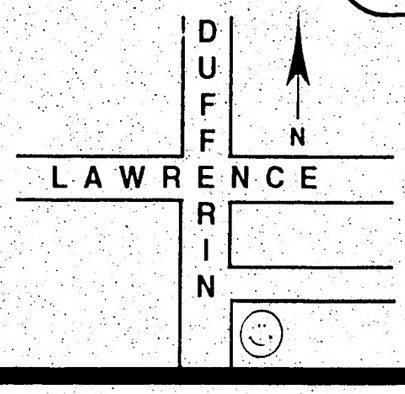

KENWOOD, YAMAHA, JVC, PANASONIC, RODEK, MTX, REDLINE, OZ, ALTEC LANSING, VELODYNE, VTL, MISSION, CERWIN VEGA, CLEMENTS, Wharfedale

Clearances on:
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***CPG EXTENDED WARRANTY AVAILABLE**

BOXING DAY BOXING DAY BOXING DAY BOXING DAY

Donna Bella

Boxing Day Sale

30 to 70

% off storewide

(excluding new arrivals)

Hazelton Lanes Shopping Centre
55 Avenue Road, Toronto
(416) 962-8033

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We have been instructed by **BDO Dunwoody Ward Mallette Inc.** to liquidate the inventory of:

PAUL MAGDER FURS LTD.

202 SPADINA AVE., TORONTO (Just N. of Queen)

EVERYTHING DISCOUNTED

UP TO 70% OFF

Over $2,000,000 of LADIES' and MEN'S FUR COATS, JACKETS and HATS must be sold immediately.
MINK • RACCOON • BEAVER • LYNX • Etc.
TRADE-IN COATS from $50.
VEHICLES: 1950 Cadillac • 1955 Packard • 1956 Buick

Mon.-Wed.	10-6 PM
Thurs.-Fri.	10-8 PM
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After Christmas Boxing Day

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This is it!

The one time during the year that everyone waits for.
Especially customers of Lawrence Plaza. Why? Because
where else can you find savings on designer labels so terrific.
You'll find fabulous savings from head to toe plus a few things more.
Lawrence Plaza, where saving you money is just the beginning.
Sale Begins Dec.27, 1993

LAWRENCE PLAZA

Your off-price shopping centre - Bathurst and Lawrence

Elizabeth Kay

Boxing Day Sale

30-70

% off storewide

(new arrivals excluded)

FABULOUS SAVINGS AT BOTH LOCATIONS:
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EDITH'S FASHIONS
for Better Clothing

BOXING DAY SALE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
THE EARLIER THE BETTER!!

Come in at:

8:00 a.m. ➡ YOU GET **70% off**

8:30 a.m. ➡ YOU GET **65% off**

9:00 a.m. ➡ YOU GET **60% off**

9:30 a.m. ➡ YOU GET **55% off**

10:00-5:00 ➡ YOU GET **50% off**

DOOR CRASHERS

SIMON CHANG BLOUSES
QUANTITY
65 pcs.
$22 Reg. $220

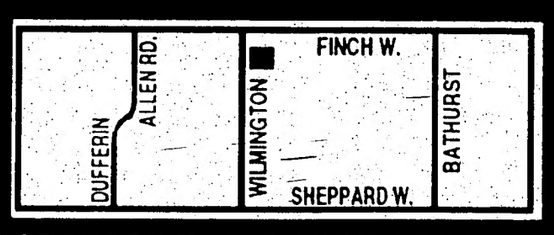
SIMON CHANG SWEATERS
QUANTITY 210 pcs.
Different Styles
$10 Reg. $95-$145

SIMON CHANG EVENING SKIRTS
ALL LACE
QUANTITY 65 pcs.
$25 Reg. $245

SIMON CHANG EVENING PANTS & SKIRTS
QUANTITY
87 pcs.
$20 Reg. $150-$200

GOING SOUTH? POLY COTTON SKIRTS
QUANTITY
120 pcs.
$5 Reg. $55

EVERYTHING IS ON A FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS WHILE QUANTITIES LAST!



221 WILMINGTON AVE.
(in the Bathurst Manor Plaza)
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*CRUISEWEAR & NEW ARRIVALS NOT ON SALE

BOXING DAY BOXING DAY

4 DAYS ONLY
HILL STREET BLUES
39.99
All Jeans or less
including: Buffalo, Guess, Levis, Request, Razzy, Manager & Silver
Most LONG SLEEVE TOPS 50% off
including: Vuarnet, Buffalo, Body Glove, Levis & B.U.M.
SALE BEGINS SUNDAY
DEC. 26, 10 AM – 5 PM
10520 YONGE ST.
RICHMOND HILL 737-3936
Richmond Heights Shopping Centre
(Yonge St. North of Major Mackenzie)
Open Mon.–Fri. 9:30–9, Sat. 9:30–6, Sun. 11–5

CAMP
C·O·N·N·E·C·T·I·O·N
LAWRENCE PLAZA AT BATHURST

Come and have your picture taken with
The Purple Dinosaur
Boxing Day, December 27 • 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
$5.00 per photo

up to 50% OFF
ALL NEW & IN STOCK FOOTWEAR
. . . plus Free Gift with Shoe & Boot Purchase
BOXING DAY SALE!!!
Comfy Shoe GALLERY
Quality Children's Footwear
in the right fit at the right price
We carry COUGAR, SOREL BOOTS, REEBOK, L.A. GEAR, STRIDE RITE, KEDS, RIGHTSTEP MINIBEL, BABYFLEX, WILDCATS, BUSTER BROWN, Italian Dress Shoes and French Slippers, etc.
We provide Friendly, Personalized service in a cozy atmosphere

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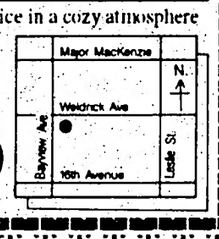
Open 7 days a week



BOXING WEEK SALE
DEC. 27TH - DEC. 31ST

WHITE GOOSE DOWN DUVETS
From $99.99

ASSORTED COMFORTERS
UP TO 50% OFF

FIELDCREST TOWELS
UP TO 50% OFF

HOLLOFIL PILLOWS
From $8.99

ASSORTED SHEETS PATTERNS & SOLIDS
UP TO 50% OFF

HOLLOFIL DUVETS
From $59.99

TAKE AN EXTRA 10% OFF
ALL ITEMS IN THE STORE

Bath n' Bedtime
CLEARANCE CENTRE
508 Lawrence Ave. W., Lawrence Plaza, One Location Only Tel. 781-8600

BOXING DAY SALE
DEC. 27
40-70% OFF Reg. Retail
ON ENTIRE STORE
(excluding cruisewear & accessories)
• Simon Chang • IB Diffusion • Joye & Fun
• Climax • Angela Bucaro • Votre Nom
• Carole Little • Platinum • Componix
• Olsen • Conrad C • N2AS • Joseph Ribkoff
• Marci Lipman • Britches • Riggins • etc.
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MOORES NOW ON! BOXING DAY!

A SPECIAL CLEARANCE OF MOORES POLYFILLED BOMBERS AND 3/4 LENGTH STROLLERS AT 1/2 PRICE!

OUTERWEAR BLOW-OUT $34.99

1/2 PRICE

PANTS

$19.99

FAMOUS LABEL SPORTCOATS

CLEAROUT PRICE!

$49.99-$79.99

BRAND NAME SUITS

A SPECIAL CLEARANCE!

$99.99

COME IN AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MANY MORE UNADVERTISED SPECIALS!

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100 Yonge St.
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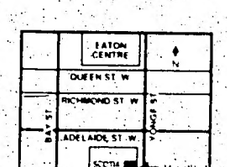

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Shopping Centre
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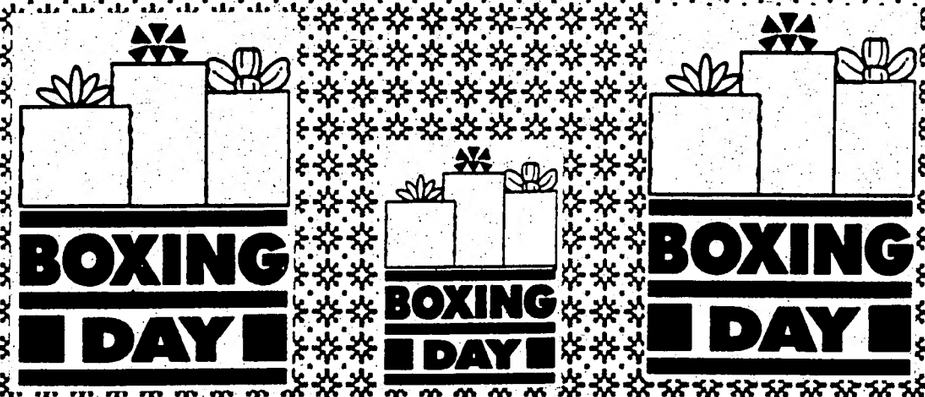


Ms. Emma Designs

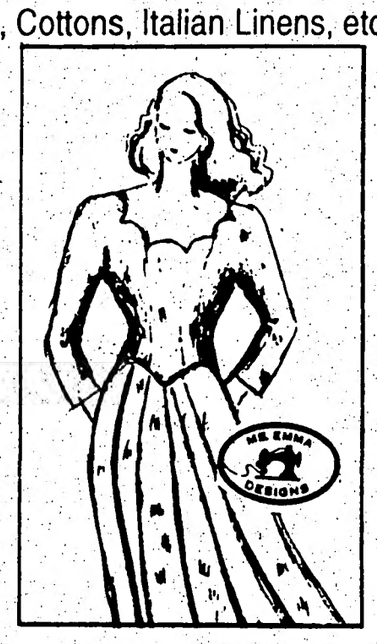
handcrafted clothes in natural fibres
including Dupioni Silks, Rayons, Cottons, Italian Linens, etc.

OUR ANNUAL BOXING DAY SALE

Starts Monday, Dec. 27

50% OFF

Everything is one size & custom fitted to the individual at NO EXTRA CHARGE*
*minimal charge on sale merchandise



Mon.-Fri. 10-6
Thursday till 7
Saturday 10-5
Evenings by appointment

4967 Yonge Street
(2 blocks N. of Sheppard)

229-1587

RODIER

PARIS

UP TO 50% OFF ON OUR WINTER COLLECTION

Come and see why your **RODIER** Knits are so famous and take advantage of this special sale to pick up some great outfits.

Take this occasion to feast your eyes on our superb Spring 94 arrivals!

RODIER

PARIS

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MONTREAL
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Arts

Giula Mandel (left), mime Jay Miller (centre) and Leia Saltzman at Chanukah concert at Northview Heights Secondary School. [M. Miller photo]

Chanukah concert enjoyable

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —There is no shortage of fine Jewish performers in Toronto but giving them the right space to perform in and good production values is a problem. A case in point is the Chanukah concert held recently at Northview Heights in North York.

A high school auditorium with a wide expanse separating performers from the audience is not the intimacy needed for all-out participation in singing *The Latke Song* or *Chanukah, Chanukah*.

A half-empty hall added to the problem and underlined the fact that the Jewish community does not appear ready to respond to Yiddish music and acts which are not free or not sponsored by a specific group or charity.

Faye Kellerstein, who produced and promoted the concert, still believes that keeping Yiddish music alive and bringing it to a younger audience is a worthwhile goal. This particular concert she marks down as a "learning experience." She hopes to take the show on tour to smaller Jewish communities.

The fine voices of Kellerstein and Michael Mandel largely overcame the delays in lighting cues, scene changes and defects in the sound system, while Jordan Klapman and his Klezmer Band were having so much fun, and their music is so infectious, they could perform in a tent. This reviewer defies anyone to watch the effervescent Klapman's head and eye movements as he plays without tapping toes along with him.

Brooklyn's gift to Toronto, comic Michael Lebovic, was hampered by the distance from the audience, but his act was still one of the evening's high points. His Yiddish is guttural, befitting the cynical and unsentimental stories he tells. For instance, when he came home from school in Brooklyn and announced he would be bored for the next 10 minutes, his mother said, in Yiddish: "Take a string and hang yourself."

It's encouraging that Lebovic is branching out, venturing into international politics. In his first number he played one of the last Chinese Jews left in Shanghai, bemoaning the cultural upheaval and political fragmentations in China. "Why do I have to live in Shanghai?" he wailed. "I could have the same thing in Israel."

Mime and storyteller Jay Miller has potential which did not fully materialize in this show, as his choice of topics did not mesh with a Chanukah concert. He has a good voice and superb timing and his type of act, with the diversity it brings to a Jewish concert, is to be encouraged.

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Books

By BERNARD BASKIN

The Fountain Of Age by Betty Friedan $32.95 Simon & Schuster

When does old age begin? Ogden Nash suggested that old age arrives when "you are sitting at home on Saturday night and the telephone rings and you hope it's not for you." Bob Hope mused that you know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.

It is astonishing to realize that in this century life expectancy has increased by more than 30 years. During the past 20 years the number of North Americans over 65 has grown by 35 per cent.

Betty Friedan is renowned for her pioneering and influential work *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). At 72, she has turned her attention and considerable talents to the problems of the elderly.

After more than 10 years of diligent research and this tome of 600 pages, she concludes that old age is not synonymous with decline, but rather an opportunity to enter into new areas of awareness of achievement.

Despite the image of older people as sickly, helpless, forgetful and dependent, she maintains that most men and women over 65 enjoy robust and creative intellectual and physical lives. To some it is the happiest and least stressful time they have ever had.

It is heartening to learn that only five per cent of the elderly suffer from Alzheimer's disease, which is an abnormal brain condition and not the result of aging, and that less than 10 per cent will end up in a nursing home.

Why do women live longer than men? In Canada they have a seven year edge. The answer seems to be that the average woman undergoes more changes in her life than does the average man — homemaker, mother, shopper, worker, etc. — and is thus better able to adjust to the vicissitudes of aging.

The author travelled across the United States interviewing older men and women from all walks of life: "film producers and beauticians, salespersons and college professors, union veterans and business tycoons, former (and forever) housewives, male and female empty-nesters and retirees."

Thus, much of this work consists of brief biographies of enterprising, imaginative and vibrant older people.

She attended conferences, visited nursing and retirement homes, and listened to the views of doctors, social workers and gerontologists and was reassured that "the chemistry of friendship, love and intmacy is just as essential to our sense of self in late life as it was in infancy.

"No longer automatically 'given' by sex and our sex roles, by our professions or our social roles, as it used to be, even those ties now have to be chosen in new ways if they — and we — are to remain vital. It's all a matter of choice now."

Confronted by the reality of death and her own fears and concerns, she writes, "Admitting there is no way to insure ourselves against terminal age and death, I sensed that instead of spending too much time and energy worrying now about that dreaded terminal care, what we must do — the only thing we can do — is to make the changes we need to make in our own lives to give them meaning to the very end. That is the best insurance for our vital aging, and for dying with life."

The Fountain of Age is unduly long and somewhat repetitious, but it is unfailingly interesting and helpful. What is missing perhaps is enough recognition that old age for the less fortunate is often a time of frustration, poverty and loneliness.

It is also a part of wisdom to understand that all that we build and launch for the stars, all that we scheme, dare and dream, all that we do, is perishable. But the reader must be reassured by this book's essential message, "Old age is not an illness, but a timeless ascent. As power diminishes we grow toward the light."

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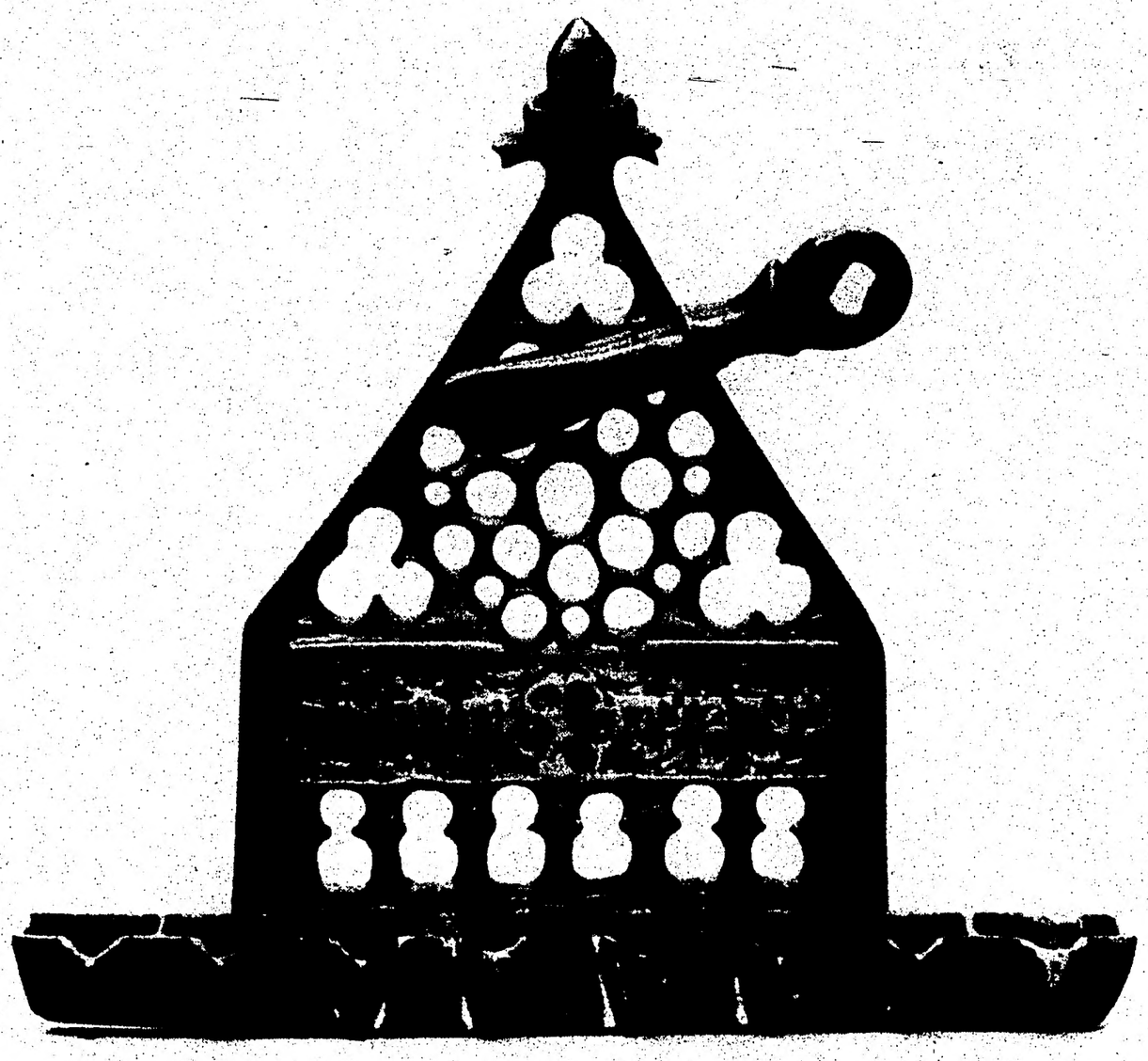

14th century Chanukah lamp from south France or Italy.

Roth exhibition at Beth Tzedec

By AMY SATTIN

TORONTO — It's not every day that a nice Jewish boy gets to meet the Pope, but then again the late English scholar Cecil Roth was not your garden-variety boychik.

Professor of Jewish history at Oxford's Merton College for 25 years, author of over 30 books and eventual editor-in-chief of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Roth was presented to Pope Pius XI in 1935. His assessment of the meeting was characteristically dry. "Not a very big affair," he wrote to his mother afterwards.

The top hat and gloves Roth wore to the papal audience, as well the letter describing the event to his mother, are now displayed at the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum as part of a new exhibit on his life and work. The Heritage of Cecil Roth exhibit will run to Sept. 1, 1994.

Part of that heritage was a collection of over 1,000 pieces of Judaica Roth sold to Beth Tzedec Congregation in 1964 to finance his retirement from Oxford. Congregation members Samuel and Israel Shopsowitz, of Shopsy's Deli fame, put up $35,000 to buy the pieces in memory of their parents Harry and Jenny. Beth Tzedec declined to release the current estimated value of the Cecil Roth Collection for security reasons.

The Heritage of Cecil Roth showcases 175 objects ranging from a silver cup given to the infant Roth by his godparents to a Sephardi aumlet with semi-precious stones once worn by his wife Irene. Irene, now 89, has been widowed since 1970. She speaks to museum goers in a seven-minute video filmed in her New York City home this autumn.

The exhibit also contains many rare pieces collected by the Roths during their travels. Among the rarities are a 19th-century megillah from Kaifeng, a Jewish colony in China dating back to 1153; a 18th-century Prussian circumcision chair in the style of Louis XV; and a bronze chanukkiah made in the 1300s.

Area resident Shirley Hanick is planning a return trip to the museum after a recent Sunday visit. A collector of Judaica herself, she said her favorite piece was a majolica Passover plate made in Italy in 1673.

The illuminated ketubbot made an equally strong impression on visitor George Cohen. Cohen was touring the museum with fellow members of Friends and Advocates Centre North York, an organization for those with mental illness. After looking at the elaborately worked marriage contracts — just a portion of the 34 ketubbot in the museum collection — Cohen said, "I think they used to take marriage more seriously back then."

Everyday objects like spices boxes and torah ornaments are an important part of the exhibit as well. Museum curator Dorion Leibgott said they help illustrate the continuity of the Jewish people. "The traditions are still carried on," she said. "[Their inclusion] gives the sense that those Jewish communities existed. It brings them to life."

For information on museum hours or to book a tour, call Leibgott at (416) 781-3511.

BILL GLADSTONE'S

EYE ON ARTS

This column's first imaginary Silver Loving Cup award goes to the Central British Fund (CBF) for World Jewish Relief, which held its 60th anniversary auction and dinner last month at Sotheby's in London. More than 100,000 British pounds were raised during the charity auction, which saw the sale of Judaic art works, silver coffee pots, two Royal Worcester vases donated by Margaret Thatcher, and other celebrity items. All proceeds were directed towards helping Bosnian Jewish refugees settle in the United Kingdom. The CBF was founded in 1933 to help Jewish victims of Nazi oppression.

* * *

Random Notes from All Over:

Department of Auld Lang Syne: Those who like to revel in the New Year might wish to participate in First Night, Toronto's third annual New Year's Eve celebration of the arts. First Night involves hundreds of performers, multiple venues within walking distance of each other, fireworks and a grand finale in Nathan Philips Square. First Night Buttons are $7 and can be purchased by calling 416-362-3692.

What's New in the Visual Arts: Folk artist Herman Reches, a former cake decorator, has succeeded in making the leap to the semi-permanence of ceramics. Several of his sculptures are displayed in the lobby of the Koffler Gallery, 4588 Bathurst St. More of his work is to grace the Leah Posluns Theatre during the upcoming production of *Fiddler on the Roof ... Bar Kochba* is the name of one of four "inspirational" works of sculpture by Mary Hecht, on view on the ground floor of the Exchange Tower, King and York streets, to Jan. 14, 1994 ... A varied, colorful display of watercolors, acrylics and mixed media by artist Jean Rodak opens Jan. 3, 1994 at the Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Rd.

Previews begin Dec. 28 for Jason Sherman's *Three in the Back, Two in the Head* at the Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave. The show will then open Jan. 4, 1994 and run until Jan. 29 before it heads to Ottawa.

Sherman won a Chalmers Canadian Play Award for his most recent play *A League of Nathans*. This time out Sherman creates a political and moral thriller.

For reservations call 531-1827.

Praise from the Pulpit Department: Jewish social critic and small-C conservative Dennis Prager, an author who produces the quarterly newsletter *Ultimate Issues* and hosts a popular radio talk show in Los Angeles, made a highly complimentary aside about the North York production of *Showboat* during a recent talk at Temple Har Zion in Thornhill. Prager, who had taken in the musical the previous evening, said it was the best theatrical entertainment he had seen in quite a few years.

* * *

Famous Lunch Counter Encounters Department: Recently, during a visit to San Francisco, I met restaurateur David Apfelbaum, a Holocaust survivor and educator. A well-known friend of Israel, Apfelbaum introduced me to his friend, actor Nehemiah Persoff, who has roughly 400 screen roles and 400 television appearances to his credit.

Once a maintenance engineer in the New York City subway, the Jerusalem-born Persoff made his film debut with Humphrey Bogart in *The Harder They Fall*, and later appeared in films with such cinematic greats as John Wayne, Kirk Douglas, James Cagney and Barbra Streisand (he played her father in *Yentl*). He has appeared often in Toronto, Montreal, Stratford and other Canadian cities, and has been on CBC-TV frequently.

Persoff, who lives along the California coast, has taken up sculpting and watercolors in recent years. How did the artistic muse first grab him? "I was about to throw a piece of wood into the fire, and I looked at it and it seemed like an old man praying. So I pulled it from the fire and almost singed my hand. All it needed was a bit of carving."

The dynamic 74-year-old has arranged to make his debut as a professional artist in a major San Francisco gallery soon. He credits the influential Apfelbaum for pulling a few strings on his behalf.

Talented entertainers hampered by program

By PAULA CITRON

TORONTO — A benefit concert for She'arim Hebrew Day School, entitled A Gala Evening of Jewish Music and Humour, was held recently at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

All the elements were there for an excellent evening of entertainment. On the musical side, the featured performer was Washington, D.C.-based tenor, Cantor Jeffrey Nadel, who not only possesses an exceptionally pleasing voice, but also happens to be a litigation lawyer in his spare time. Humor was provided by the delightfully low-key comedian Bob Alper, a third generation Yankee and practising rabbi from Vermont. Given Nadel's prodigious singing talent and Alper's gentle but pointed repartee, the evening should have been a sure-fire success. This, however, was not the case, although by the end of the concert, the two visiting Americans did manage to inject some warmth into the extraordinarily cool crowd.

The decision of the organizers not to include an intermission made an already long evening seem even longer. Furthermore, since the program was divided into three parts, with Alper performing between Nadel's sets, the cantor was faced with the situation where many in the audience got up to leave during the second part of his performance, not because they didn't enjoy his singing, but because it was getting very late and they wanted to go home.

If each entertainer had performed once with an intermission in between, the concert would have been more effective. Judicious programing would have placed Alper first. With his charming Yankee wisdom and folksy view of life, the rabbi could have helped make the crowd more receptive. Nadel, the more charismatic and passionate performer, would have been a logical follow-up, and perhaps the crowd would have been more responsive when asked to sing with him.

People did nevertheless enjoy themselves; there was genuine laughter for Alper's tongue-in-cheek humor and at the close of the concert, sales were brisk for Nadel's tapes.

With the accompaniment of his excellent pianist Rob Reisenman, Nadel moves easily between complex liturgical arias, Yiddish songs and Broadway ballads and gives credibility to them all. The cantor is blessed with a sweet, smooth voice and, athough his mainly Jewish repertoire sets him apart, his effortlessly light lyric singing makes him the equal of the best of the professional tenors. An example of the cantor's heart-felt but genuine delivery was his lilting rendering of Meredith Wilson's unabashedly sentimental *May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You* at the end of his program. Nonetheless, as demonstrated in his own composition *Birkas Kohanim*, the cantor can also toss off floral and ornate chazzanuth with the best, while retaining the purity of his honey-toned sound.

Alper, for his part, does not perform humor that depends on put-down and insult. Rather, the rabbi recounts the foibles in life, not with scathing satire, but with a self-deprecating mocking; he wants us to laugh with him. Whether it is cataloguing a charming list of rabbis' fantasies (like playing Simon Says with the congregation during responses) or talking about his children (who attend a camp for the severely over-privileged), Alper delights with observations reminiscent of Mark Twain or Stephen Leacock. My favorite "alperism" is the following: on his first trip to Israel, the rabbi's knowledge of only biblical Hebrew produced the deathless line, 'Behold, I descend!" when he was getting out of a taxi.

In short, any fault in the evening lay not with the performers, but with the programing, and it would be good to see these two talented gentlemen, either separately or together, in our city again.

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Multimillion dollar venture run by mother/daughter team

By LORI DENNIS

TORONTO — With Renee Unger's shocking red hair and somewhat unconventional attire and Alysse Unger's very youthful appearance, this mother/daughter pair hardly seem to be what you would expect in a successful business team competing with the likes of Kraft Foods.

Yet this dynamic duo, the founder and the director of Product Development for Excelle Brands Foods, have, along with Renee's husband Arnie Unger, turned their company — known to the public as Renee's Gourmet Salad Dressings — into a multimillion-dollar venture.

Addressing a group of some sixty members of the Young Business Network of United Jewish Appeal, Renee and Alysse gave their first-ever mother/daughter presentation at the Primrose Club, offering these young Jewish business leaders of tomorrow a taste of their personal success, and details of the journey that has made them such a formidable presence in the Canadian food industry.

Renee, who had always been an avid cook, had a penchant for making her own salad dressings. With a university chemistry background and a talent for knowing when the taste was just right, she would constantly experiment and invariably create recipes with perfect taste and balance. Because she was allergic to preservatives, additives and m.s.g., her recipes used only the freshest ingredients.

When her neighbors and friends received her dressings as holiday gifts in the winter of 1984, and then demanded more, Renee knew she was on to something big. "I was so impressed that they were impressed with me, that I decided I'd better do something with my recipes," she said.

"But what did I know about business? I was a former teacher, a mother of three girls and a woman who happened to love to cook. I knew that translating an idea from my head to the marketplace was not going to be an easy task," said Renee.

But with determination, good professional advice and an unshakeable belief in herself and in her products, in May of 1985, Renee and Arnie introduced Renee's Gourmet Salad Dressings to the public.

"Our dressings were such a hit that I remember during one of our many product demonstrations, there were two women hitting each other over the head with their purses, fighting for the last of our bottles," she recalls.

Today, their company, Intercorp/Excelle Brands Foods, produces more than 150 types of dressings and sauces including a new line that's "fat-free." The company develops private label products for Loblaws, Miracle Food Mart, A & P, and Dominion. And by early 1994, many of Renee's products, available in the grocery chains and specialty shops across the country, will be kosher.

"When we entered the salad dressing market it was mature, meaning flat," explains Renee. "With our dressings, we put a curve into the marketplace. And it has only skyrocketed since. I think it's because we were offering something new — weird and wonderful flavors that no one else was doing. We really made the market grow."

While others, including Kraft with its line called Country Kitchen, have tried to copy Renee's, no one has been able to offer the same fresh ingredients, and that straight-from-the-kitchen, homemade taste.

Last August, Excelle moved into a brand new 85,000 square foot manufacturing facility. And the company's sales reached $14 million.

"I still believe that we are offering our customers the same homemade product as before. We're just producing it in a much larger home and for a lot more people," explained Renee.

Their awards and merits include a Gold Medal for small business and a Silver Medal for Entrepreneurship at the 1988 Canadian Business of Excellence Awards. In 1989, Renee Unger won the Businesswoman of the Year award for North York. And Renee's Gourmet recently won the Best Tasting Italian Salad Dressing — for both Regular and Lite.

Alysse, 27, who has been in the business for the past eight years, working side by side with Renee in every capacity, can boast of her own personal accomplishments. These include developing the ever-popular, best-selling President's Choice Peanut Sauce, Tai Sauce and the Too-Good-To-Be-True line. When Dave Nichol of Loblaws tasted her President's Choice peanut sauce creation, he said it was perfect, surpassing his expectations of what he thought it could ever be.

Alysse has taken hundreds of night school courses on food science and technology, as well as every cooking class imaginable, on top of a heavy work schedule. She admits that it's much harder to work for a family business because they judge you more harshly. "My mother was always been concerned that nepotism would not take place. And believe me it never did." Alysse confirmed.

Even now, with her gift for taste and her boundless energy, Alysse is the one her mother counts on for the final stamp of approval on each and every formula. "We both know where and when to hit. And so far, we've been right," said Renee.

The Internet connection

By JOHANNA JACOBSON

Twelve-year-old Shanna is writing a class paper on Israel. She has been using the family computer to link up electronically with foreign university libraries. Through one of these postings, she made contact with a veteran reserve officer in the Israeli Defence Forces.

Liba loves Shady Palms. At 72, she is involved in many activities and loves to socialize. However, each Thursday night, she rushes through dinner and is off to the terminal room in the club house for her computer time. She talks via computer hookup to her children and grandchildren in Toronto and California. Liba also discusses senior's issues, gardening, and Yiddish with folks all across the world — all on computer.

Dr. Martin uses his computer to read medical journals and access medical databases for the latest research. He also participates in an electronic discussion group dealing with magnetic imaging.

These scenarios are not predictions for the future. Rather, they are very typical examples of how computer systems like Internet are being used today.

Internet is an electronic communications highway. The governments of Canada, Israel and the United States are now committed to spending billions of dollars to upgrade Internet to a superhighway.

Internet is made up of thousands of interconnected academic, government and business computer networks. In the 1970s, the U.S. military began a computer network to facilitate military communications. By the 1980s, universities and business had developed their own networks. Internet was born when the U.S. government connected these different networks to a common backbone.

Today, Internet is a loosely defined organization of thousands of affiliated networks. A set of protocols or rules allows any two computers to communicate with one another.

Internet is an ideal tool to bridge Jewish communities. The networks contain a wealth of Jewish information, everything from aliyah information to Torah study, kashruth and a Jewish single's line. There are also secular group discussions on medical resources, legal issues, primary and secondary education, home-brewing, the environment, women's studies and items for sale.

Internet is only as far away as your telephone line, a computer and a modem. Once connected, the basic services are electronic mail (e-mail), the file transfer protocol and telnet. E-mail is the most popular Internet service, and the one most people are familiar with. It is quick — letters travel between Toronto and Israel in two seconds — and inexpensive. Discussion groups use e-mail.

The file transfer protocol retrieves text and information by computer. Telnet is used to access a computer from a remote site. For example, the library catalogue at Tel Aviv University can be accessed without dialing direct and incurring long distance charges.

Group urges joint business ventures

JERUSALEM — A plan for instituting joint ventures among Americans, Israelis and Palestininans as a way to advance the Middle East peace process was proposed by Elmer L. Winter, chair of the Committee for Economic Growth of Israel (CEGI) during a recent meeting in Jerusalem with Hanna Siniora, editor of the Arabic newpaper of Al Fajr and a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The meeting, arranged by the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, enabled Winter to outline the problems facing American CEOs considering investing in Gaza or the West Bank. Many American executives, he said, were hesitant about opening such facilities until a solid infrastructure has been established in these areas.

"The Palestinians need to quickly establish an entity with which American companies can negotiate for the opening of factories in the area," Winter said, adding: "Before opening factories for the long haul, foreign companies need to be assured they can operate in a free trade zone area, that security measures have been implemented and appropriate incentives are created.

Winter further recommended three-way joint ventures as the best way for American companies to conduct business in the region. Under this plan, U.S. firms would provide know-how and markets, Israelis would offer joint management and R&D capabilities and the benefits of the three free trade agreements that Israel enjoys, and the Palestinians would offer joint management and jobs, particualarly in such fields as manufacturing and assembling consumer products.

The PLO advisor, according to Winter, agreed that the joint venture approach deserved serious consideration and could be implemented after the loans and grants pledged by 40 countries to build the infrastructure of the region have been made.

Now that the Israelis and the Palestinians have entered into an accord that encompasses major economic development plans, Winter urged American companies to get in on the ground floor and participate in the newly-created investment opportunities in the Middle East.

Winter advises American CEOs interested in the potential of the Middle East: "Get over to Israel. Set up headquarters there and develop joint ventures with Israeli companies. This is a low-risk way to enter the Middle East market." Later a Palestinian company can participate in a joint venture.

According to the CEGI chair, there are many opportunities for American companies to do business in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. He noted that the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles (DoP) calls for Israelis and Palestinians to co-operate and undertake joint activities in trade, regional development, communications, industrial activity and banking.

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Quality products aid Loblaw's success

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

With millions and millions of cookies, chips, ice cream, sauces, frozen dinners and coffee being scooped up in record numbers every year, President's Choice is the business success story of the decade.

Its appeal, according to Tom Stevens, vice-president of unique products development for Loblaw International Merchants, is that President's Choice products are high in quality and low in price.

"We can spend a year developing a great product, but if the price doesn't work, we forget about it," Stevens told a recent meeting of the Food and Marketing Division of United Jewish Appeal.

Stevens said when Galen Weston inherited the Loblaws chain of grocery stores in the 1970s, "they were a disgrace. Everyone advised him to sell but, always one to swim upstream, he wanted a challenge. What he did was introduce the now-familiar line of no-name products and this strategy worked. They were good quality and consumers wanted them."

Stevens used President's Choice cola as an example of how these products were eventually expanded to include successful national brand products. "Does it taste better than any of the national brands? No, but people cannot tell the difference and it is a better value. In Australia, where our products were just introduced, they are marketing the cola by saying 'If you can't tell the difference, why pay the difference?' "

President's Choice

He said after the product has been developed and priced, Loblaws then concentrates on the packaging. "We have to have a package that captures the consumers' imagination. It has to create the right impression right up front."

He used the example of the President's Choice Decadent Chocolate Chip Cookie, Canada's number one selling cookie. "This cookie is available in Chicago at only one grocery chain, yet it is still the top selling cookie in that city."

Stevens said an enormous amount of human commitment has gone into making President's Choice a success. "We have to find factories with research and development staff that can give us the quality we're after and then we have to find handling systems. We also have to find retailers in the United States and other countries that will adopt our principles and go flat out for them. These things make a successful story.

The President's Choice line will soon be launched in Hong Kong and Bermuda.

With regards to the recent resignation of President's Choice wizard Dave Nichol, Stevens screened an interview of him in which Nichol said that although he is becoming a private food consultant, Loblaws will remain one of his major clients and he will spend 50 per cent of his time developing President's Choice products.

"Canadians are beginning to realize that they have to buy smarter and we are supplying smarter products. There is a revolution going on because people are unwilling to pay extra money for brand names. We are watching the death of nationally branded food products," said Nichol.

When asked about kosher President's Choice products, Stevens said about 10 per cent are kosher and they are looking for manufacturers with facilities for making kosher products. "It is something we are looking for, but it is not driving us," he said.

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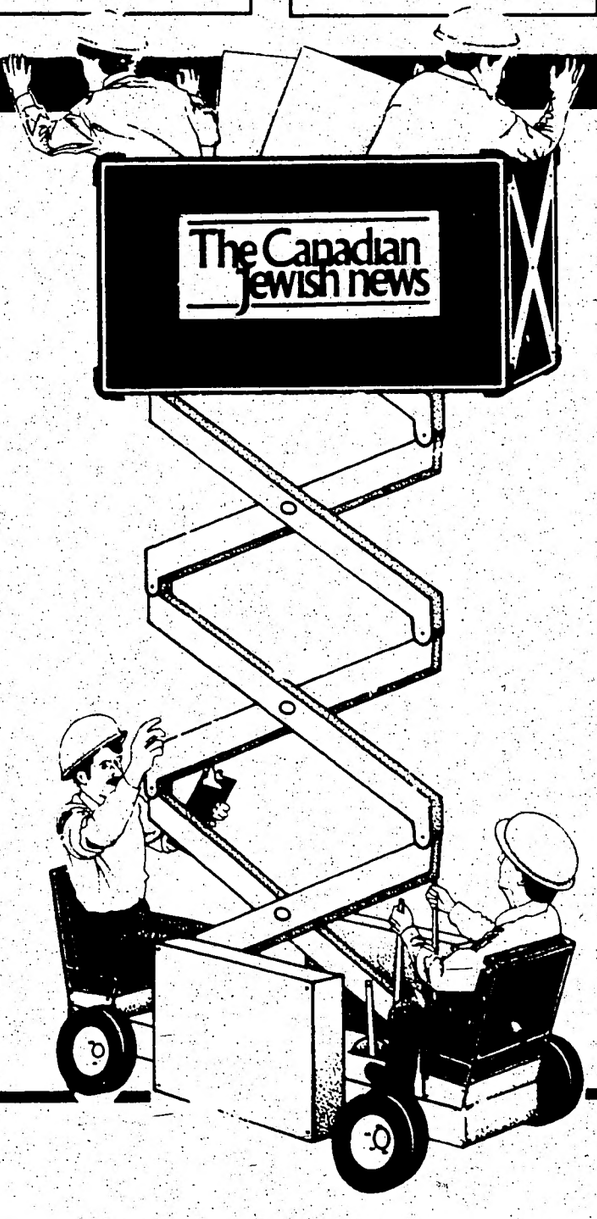

Investor seminar aimed at women

TORONTO — In a survey taken by Women's Day Magazine in October 1991, 50,000 American women were asked which they would rather be: richer, more beautiful, famous or younger. Seventy-one percent said they would rather take the money and run.

These findings clearly explain why there was a turnout of 150 women recently — filling Toronto's McGill Club meeting room to more than capacity (at $40 per person) — at a seminar entitled *"Smart Questions to Ask A Financial Advisor."*

Sponsored by Marci Lipman, President, Marci Lipman Inc. and The Financial Times, this was the first in a series of practical, educational investor seminars for women. As the brainchild of Bernice Miedzinski, former Vice-President of Morgan Bank of Canada, and founder and owner of Money Skills, an independent Toronto financial consultancy for women, the seminar was in keeping with her personal mission to empower women in the area of financial independence.

Proceeds of the evening will benefit The Canadian Women's Foundation, the first and only national public foundation for women and girls in Canada, which grants money to results-oriented small business development, education, training, and violence prevention projects that will improve women's economic lives and security.

Miedzinski, who has spent the last nine years of her career in treasury management, believes that while women are getting smarter about managing their finances, we still have a long way to go. According to a press release, recent studies show that 75 percent of women live the last quarter of their lives in poverty and women in Canada comprise 82 percent of single parent heads of households. " Mothers are trying hard to inculcate their daughters to take more control. But I think we still have another generation or two to go until financial independence will be gained," says Miedzinski.

Studies have also shown that while many Canadian women believe that they need financial advice, 57 percent aren't willing to pay for it. A lack of financial advice can be dangerous to your wealth," she warns. "Just as you would trust your doctor, you should find a financial advisor you can trust."

Although experts agree that money management and investing are important for everyone in this day and age, many women find options unclear and the topic intimidating. "Women need to have a solid understanding of the types of products available in order to make informed financial decisions with comfort and confidence," explains Miedzinski.

The seminar's four panel members — including Susan A. Gottlieb, Investment Advisor, Nesbitt Thomson Inc., Marie E. Howes, Principal Money$mart Inc., Leslie A. Slater, Vice-President, The Ginsberg Organization Inc. and Joanne Thomas Yaccato, President, Women and Money Inc. — were on hand to provide practical tips and information and to help women determine exactly how to go about finding this trusted consultant and the information they need.

Ellen Roseman, moderator and money editor of *The Globe & Mail*, said she has heard so many horror stories about women who have received bad financial advice or no advice at all that she strongly believes the onus must be on the potential customer to learn about finances. "Never put your full trust in anyone. You must know a lot before you can choose an advisor," she warns.

Yaccato began a career in finacial services for women because she believes that women's social experience is different from men's when it comes to investment and savings. Presently writing a book on women and money, Yaccato says that women's financial world is also affected because "we have babies which take us out of the work force and because we live longer and need money for more years."

"Our problem also stems from the old Cinderella complex which says that we'll be taken care of by someone for the rest of our lives. But with the high divorce rate, with everyone being shaken up by the current recession and with governments, corporations and pension plans going bankrupt, that myth is quickly being dispelled. We are finally realizing that we have no one to depend on but ourselves," says Miedzinski.

All four panelists agreed that finding a trusted financial advisor is somewhat like finding a marriage partner. You need to look for someone with similar interests, background and, above all, the right chemistry. "Most importantly, you must establish the ground rules and your expectations right at the beginning. Most clients will not leave a consultant because of lack of performance but because their service expectations have not been met," explains Gottlieb.

While selecting a trusted financial advisor may seem like a daunting task at first, the panel offered a few key points to help women get started:

- Get a referral from a friend or relative, someone whose opinion you respect.
- Prepare a net worth statement and a basic budget.
- Define for yourself your financial goals, investment objectives and risk profile.
- Before choosing someone, make sure you have trust in them, a good rapport.
- Define and communicate your service needs and feel confident that the advisor you choose will listen to, understand and respond to those needs.

Tips From Pros

By HOWARD BLACK

Consider a situation where your spouse suddenly suffers an unexpected stroke, which results in temporary or permanent loss of mental capacity.

How can you assist an elderly parent or a spouse in carrying out transactions at the bank, if the person is physically unable to get out of the house?

Each of these examples could easily be remedied if you, your spouse, or your parent, as the case may be, executed a valid Power of Attorney before the stroke occurred, or in advance of your having to assist another person with banking or other financial matters.

A Power of Attorney is the authority given by one person (the donor or principal) to another person (the donee or attorney) to act on behalf of the donor in conducting financial affairs. The authority given may be general in nature, encompassing all acts the donor may perform, or it may be limited to specific acts, such as the conduct of banking business, the sale of specified real estate, or authority to transfer stocks or bonds from the name of the donor to that of another person.

The test for legal capacity in executing a Power of Attorney is the same as that required in making a will. The donors should understand the nature and effect of the Power of Attorney, the type and extent of the assets they own, and the qualities that an attorney ought to possess.

The Power of Attorney is especially useful when donors plan to be out of the country or away from home and need to have financial matters attended to in their absence. A Power of Attorney can be useful in paying bills or in looking after other financial matters for the elderly or disabled who have trouble getting out.

Ideally, everyone over the age of 18 years and of sound mind, should have an attorney authorized to act in the event of loss of mental capacity or other disability, which is often unanticipated and can occur suddenly and without any advance notice. A Power of Attorney is easily documented on a one-page form. The costs of having a proper Power of Attorney drawn and executed are small compared to the alternative court application to have a committee appointed to serve a similar function.

Under some circumstances, it may be advisable to impose a restriction or limitation on the authority conferred on the attorney. For instance, when authority is given for the attorney to conduct the donor's financial affairs while the donor is on holiday, the Power of Attorney may express a time limitation (i.e., "This authority shall only be in effect from Dec. 1, 1993 until Dec. 16, 1993.")

It is important to realize that you are not signing away your assets when you execute a Power of Attorny. In addition to placing restrictions on the attorney, Power of Attorney may be revoked at any time by donors, provided they have mental capacity.

Revocation is usually made by the donor, giving notice in writing to the attorney and perhaps to those third parties with whom the attorney had been dealing on the donor's behalf. A telephone call to the bank, for example, provides the quickest means of advising that a Power of Attorney has been revoked by the donor where there is any concern about misuse of the authority by the donee.

Powers of Attorney are only intended to be operative during the lifetime of the donor. On the donor's death, therefore, the Power of Attorney will be terminated. It is then the executor or other legal representative of the estate who will have the authority to act on behalf of the estate.

Under the current law of Ontario, a Power of Attorney may only be used to manage the financial affairs of the donor. The authority conferred does not extend to making any health-care decisions on behalf of the donor.

On Dec. 7, 1992, four new statutes were given third reading in the Ontario legislature. This new legislation, when proclaimed into force, will, among other things, permit individuals to appoint others to make, not only financial decisions, but also health-care decisions on their behalf, in the event that they are incapable of doing so on their own. "Living Wills" will also become legally-binding documents in Ontario.

As humans, we tend to postpone confronting issues that may be difficult to address, especially when these issues relate to our own immortality or incapacity. When one compares the relative simplicity of preparing a Power of Attorney, with the potentially disastrous consequences of becoming physically or mentally incapacitated without having executed such a document, the advantages are obvious.

The preparation and execution of a proper Power of Attorney should therefore not be considered one of those issues which are difficult to address, but rather, a means by which to plan a significant aspect of one's affairs with relative ease.

(Howard S. Black practises with Minden, Gross, Grafstein & Greenstein in the areas of estate and will planning, domestic agreements, trusts, estate adminstration, estate litigation, mediation of estate disputes, and mental incompetency issues.)

World's largest children's book store

By CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO — The Children's Book Store is a wonderland for children and for those who are still young at heart.

After 19 years, the Children's Book Store, owned and operated by Judy and Hy Sarick, has moved to 2532 Yonge St., a few blocks north of Eglinton at the corner of St. Clements. The art moderne building with its ornate mouldings and many distinctive art deco architectural features is being restored by the Saricks in consultation with the Toronto Historical Board.

The Children's Book Store is the largest children's bookstore in the world featuring some 100,000 books, cassettes and videos. It has been a dynamic force behind the growth of children's publishing and recording industries in Canada. The Saricks are credited with contributing to the international success of such children's entertainers as Sharon, Lois and Bram, Raffi, Fred Penner and Sue Hammond.

The reason the Saricks have weathered the economic recessions, they note, "is that consumers depend on our integrity." Even when there was a drop in business, the Saricks stuck to their principles of stocking only quality books and never selling such merchandise as formula written series. Until 1990, the bookstore had consistent growth each year.

In 1991, due to the restricted budgets of schools and libraries, the store saw a drop in sales. Judy adds that when the GST was put in place, the store saw a drop of 34 per cent in retail sales in January 1991 and then sales levelled off. "During the first few weeks of business in our new location, the store has seen an increase of 30 per cent in sales."

The Saricks have been running the Children's Book Store since 1974. Against the advice of publishers and other sceptics, they opened their first store on Avenue Road with a loan of $25,000 from Hy's father. In October, the Children's Book Store moved from its second location in Mirvish Village on Markham Street, where it had been operating since 1980.

The new store has added such features as a reading area with chairs, tables and windowseats, and there will be audio/video preview facilities, readings and other exciting events. "With this move," says Hy, "the Children's Book Store will become a focus for family entertainment in the Greater Toronto area."

The Saricks also operate a wholesale mail order service for schools and libraries which has grown to 75 per cent of their business.

A more recent innovation is the Children's Book Store West, a showroom in a Vancouver suburb operated by their daughter, Tema. It's a place where teachers and librarians can look over books and audio/video materials offered in the store's catalogue. Orders are transmitted by modem to the Toronto store and shipments go out the following day.

Along with an overwhelming number of children's books and tapes, the store also has a section devoted to parenting and teaching. There is a Judaica section with many Jewish content selections and there are numerous books for the Jewish holiday for children of all ages. The store is fully accessible to wheelchairs and strollers.

Looking to the future, they will be expanding to in-store book fairs for schools and selling CD ROMs, "although we feel they will never replace real books," Judy notes. "I feel books are here to stay."

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Calgary's Rabbi Geoffrey Haber chairs city's rabbinical council

CALGARY — Rabbi Geoffrey Haber, spiritual leader of Calgary's largest congregation, Beth Tzedec (Conservative), has been named chairof the Calgary Rabbinical Council (CRC). This position rotates annually among the rabbis of the various synagogues of the Calgary Jewish community who are affiliated with the Calgary Jewish Community Council (CJCC).

Rabbi Haber, a native of Montreal, is a graduate of the Joint Program between Columbia University and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. At Columbia University, Rabbi Haber was one of several to pioneer the major of Ancient Near Eastern Studies and was graduated with a BA, cum laude, in 1981.

He simultaneously received a BA from the seminary where his major was Talmud and Rabbinics. Rabbi Haber continued his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary's Rabbinical School where he received a MA in Jewish Studies in 1985 and was ordained in 1986. While attending the Rabbinical School, Rabbi Haber spent a year of study at the Graduate School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Haber received numerous awards during his academic career including two prestigious awards in Talmud: the Harry Goldstein Award and the Alexander Lamport Prize. In addition, he received the Sarah and Morris Rosenberg Prize in Philosophy.

Rabbi Jordon Goldson, of Temple B'nai Tikvah, represents the Reform Movement while Rabbi Moshe Shulman, of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, represents the Orthodox on the Rabbinical Council. The three rabbis have developed a unique working arrangement, based on consensus, that allows them to work in harmony on many different issues of community concern while also recognizing each other's right to hold individual beliefs and ideologies. The CRC convenes to discuss community issues with the purpose of identifying those issues which require attention, both proactive and reactive. The CRC, according to its mandate, can decide to involve itself in matters of community importance and take a leadership role to promote action, awareness, or unity.

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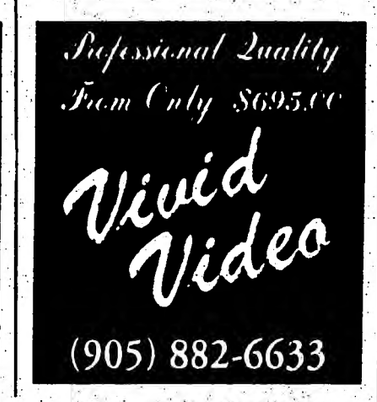

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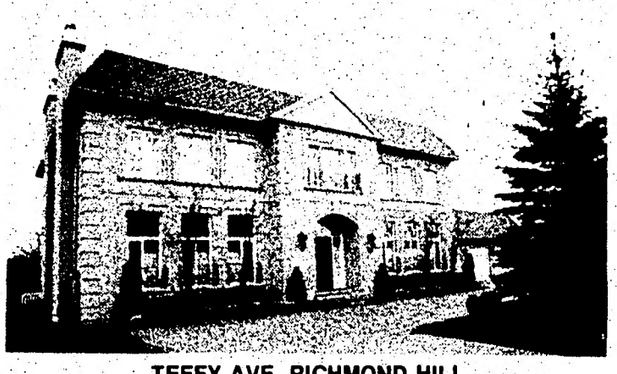

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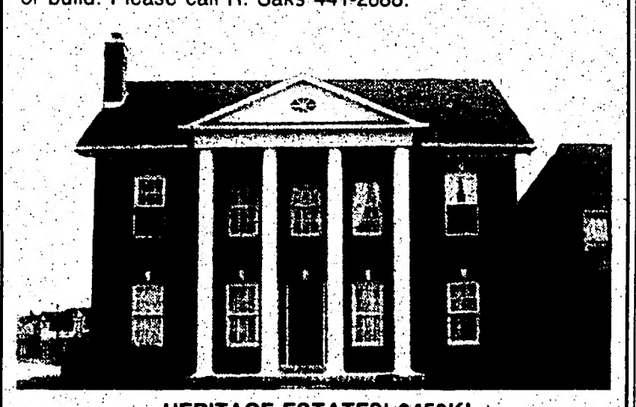

HERITAGE ESTATES! $459K!
A 10+1 Centre hall Georgian! 4+1 BR, 5 bath, mn. fam. rm. + lib.! Nanny suite! ++. Please call S. Schwartzben* 441-2888.

BAYVIEW/CUMMER $419,000
Quiet court — updated 5 bedroom, fin. lower lvl., hrwd. flrs., ingrnd, pool. Please call Natalie Kopman* 441-2888.

YONGE/CLARK COLLEEN ST. $249,000
Semi-det. appx. 2000 sq. ft. Great location, 3 BR + fin. bsmt. MBR ens. Great for started. Please call A. Bekerman 441-2888.

EXECUTIVE FURNISHED RENTAL
Gracious 3 bdrm. ranch bungalow — totally equipped on quiet cul-de-sac. $2,800/mo. Please call Elise Kalles** 441-2888.

HARVEY KALLES
•REAL ESTATE LIMITED•
441-2888

CENTRAL

$3,680K ROSEDALE LANDMARK!
Ravine! City skyline! Unique mansion! Absolute perfection! Please call Toby Farb*/Elise Kalles** 441-2888.

LOWER VILLAGE CONTEMPORARY
$2,480,000. Fab. open concept, exquisitely designed with every attention to detail. Pool. Please call E. Kalles** 441-2888.

ROSEDALE — 1 ACRE RAVINE LOT
Elegant historic home, 98R/6 baths, gracious entertaining home. $1,665,000. Please call N. Kopman*/E. Kalles** 41-2888.

1ST AD! BATHURST/GLENCAIRN!
$409K! Quick closing! Custom blt. exec. ranch! 3+2 BR. Mn. fam. rm. 50'x133' lot! Please call S. Schwartzben* 441-2888.

LIVE/INVEST/BUILD! $229K!
Super opportunity for large corner frontage on Lawrence W. of Bathurst! Please call Sandon Schwartzben* 441-2888.

GLENCAIRN EAST OF BATHURST!
$1,200/mo.! Charming 2 BR. Eat-in kit. Spacious open concept. Fab. 50'x134' lot! Please call S. Schwartzben* 441-2888.
*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

Signature
Realty Limited
Welcomes
BECKY WENER
and invites all her clients, friends and relatives, to call her anytime at
730-1077
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BEAT THE RECESSION, EARN DOLLARS!!
Speak to **"BECKY"** now about how she could benefit you!!!
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NOT INTENDED TO SOLICIT PROPERTIES CURRENTLY LISTED FOR SALE

LARNELL
REAL ESTATE LIMITED
Sheldon Laiwint
Broker
782-0888

ARMOUR HEIGHTS. $440,000. Drastic reduction. Gorgeous 4 bdrm., mn. flr. den, fin. bsmnt., modern kitch., country setting, on Sandringham Dr. cul-de-sac.

BATHURST MANOR. Just reduced to $289,900. Good income. Lg. triplex. Fully rented. 2x3 bd., 1x1 bd.

BATHURST MANOR. $299,500. Huge 3 bd. sidesplit, mn. flr. fam. rm., fin. bsmnt., C-A, modern reno kitch., close to shuls.

HELEN WINER
Sales representative
ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR
764-7200

Bayview/Steeles - Magnificent 4 bdrm, huge fam. rm & library. 699,000. Amongst M$ homes.
Bathurst/Finch/Steeles - 2 bdrm condo approx. 1450 sq. ft., 179,900. Shows extremely well.
Bathurst/Finch SOLD m townhouse - 167,500
AND A GREAT SELECTION OF OTHER FINE HOMES TO CHOOSE FROM

BATHURST - SHEPPARD
Just Listed Huge Backsplit Lot 50' x 234' Super 3,000 Sq. Ft. Home plus In-Law Apartment, 2 Car Garage Come & View Sally Rosen (905) 884-4425 Century 21 Smith Ltd.

BAYVIEW-YORK MILLS. 3-b.r. bung., on 75'x151' treed lot. Potential for builder, etc. Only $359,000. Santee Leung 441-2003. SANTEE REALTY INC.

Forest Hill
Real Estate Inc. Realtor
488-2875 226-1987

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

THE FINEST HIGHPOINT LOCATION . . .
Exceptional 2+ acres 2 stry, 5 br lux. residence total reno, indoor pool. Maurice Gherson* 488-2875.

AVENUE/LAWRENCE BUILDER'S OWN . . .
Fab 1+1 bdrm, exquisite finishes. Fam rm, 2 flpl, priced right! Call Maurice Gherson* 488-2875.

"LIGHT" UP YOUR LIFE BY OWNING
This home! Bath/Lawrence 4 bdrms, main laund, main fam, upgrades. B. Singer**/L. Salcman* 488-2875.

REDUCED TO SELL NOW! $559,000
Cortleigh/Mona area, centre hall, 4 bdrms, powder room, ensuite bath, Fin Bsmt. J. Wagman** 488-2875.

2 YRS NEW YONGE/LAWRENCE SUBWAY!
Stunning upgraded 3+1 bdrm, fam rm, 5 pc. ens, nanny's/bsmt apt. Call Maurice Gherson* 488-2875.

WHAT'S THE CATCH!
The $800,000 house in the Upper Village for only $459,000.00. Call Jeffrey Wagman* 488-2875.

UPPER VILLAGE FOR $495,000
Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 baths, main flr fam rm 2 fplc's, lovely quiet st. Jeffrey Wagman** 488-2875.

WANT TOTAL RENO IN CEDARVALE?
$379,000 3 bdrm, 2 stry, marble bath, fin bsmt new windows! Call Jeffrey Wagman** 488-2875.

REDUCED! YORK DOWNS/CLANTON PARK
Estate sale, 3000 sqft, 4 bdrm, 4 baths, totally renovated & new addition, bsmt apt. Goldie Kay* 226-1987.

YORK MILLS/BAYVIEW EXEC LIFESTYLE
Awaits you in this beautifully updated 1950 sqft townhome. Anne Eidlitz* 226-1987.

1ST AD — QUEEN & LANSDOWNE
Totally renovated 2 storey home, new roof, new furnace, new wiring+++ Call Faithe Sversky** 488-2875.

STARTER HOME/BUILDING LOT 25x110
3 bedroom 2 bathroom in law suite steps to Eglinton West subway. Call Marc Monson* 488-2875.

1ST AD MAJOR MACKENZIE/BATHURST
$249K cheapest 4 bdrm twnhse in complex! Main flr den, end unit. Call Faithe Sversky** 488-2875.

NORTH PROPERTIES

BAYVIEW/CUMMER RAVINE PRICED TO SELL!
Private treed grounds, large contemporary residence. Move in condition. N. Wagman* 488-2875.

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

65 HARBOUR SQ 2 BDRM $489,000
Face lake & skyline grand SOLD trance new carpet 2003 sq ft won't last. C. Jong* 488-2875.

HARBOURPOINT HIGH FL SE CORNER
Stunning lake & skyline view 821 sq ft new carpet new blinds new decor. C. Jong 488-2875.

HARBOURPOINT 2 BR + DEN PARKING
813 sq ft corner unit lake park & pier view new carpet immaculate. C. Jong* 488-2875.

77 HARBOUR SQ 1 BR + BALCONY
By the pier upgraded carpet & tiles parking & locker same floor as suite, bargain at $164,900. C. Jong* 488-2875.

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

LAKE OF BAYS-WALK TO SYNAGOGUE
Estate setting. 4-bdrm tennis crt, boathouse 170' south sandy shore. Anita Latner** 488-2875.

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

488-2875
441 Spadina Rd.
Toronto, Ont. M5P 2W3
Fax (416) 488-2694

226-1987
130 Willowdale Ave.
Willowdale, Ont. M2N 4Y2
Fax (416) 226-3067

Canada Trust Realty

A TRUE GEM — THORNHILL
Just listed, stunning 2 storey 4 bed, 4 bath, across from park & 2 skylights, ceramics, gorgeous white eat in kitchen. Main fl family rm & laundry. 2 fireplaces, central air & vac, jacuzzi tub, security system, stereo intercom. Partially finished basement, deck, landscaped, fruit trees, walk to synagogue, stores & TTC. Priced to sell at $299,900. Call Adrienne Coleman 477-9121.

10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Steeles/Bathurst Large 4 bdrm/ 3 baths. A/C. cen. vac, intercom. All amenities.Large fenced backyard, Close to shuls, schools. Circular oak staircase.Immaculate. 2 door garage $349,900. 889-6515

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Clark/Yonge 3bdrm 2/1 bth.Fin. bsmt. All appliances. From Feb. 1 $1400+ 633-8543

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

LOCATIONS LOCATIONS LOCATIONS™

LOCATIONS INC., REALTOR
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

NORTH OFFICE 771-7100

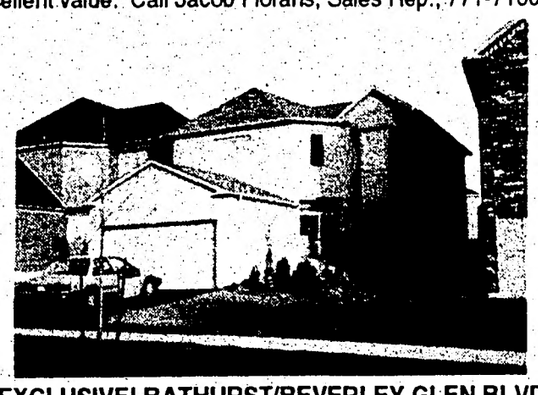
A STEAL ON PATRICE!
Excellent opportunity for 1st time buyer! 3 bdrm. detached all brick house! Large new white kit., parquet floor in liv & din., fin. bsmt. w/ 3pc. bath, rec. room and bdrm. Cent. air, more, more! Call Irit Cohen or Polina Brener, Sales Reps, 771-7100.

BATHURST/LAWRENCE
2 bdrm. bung. on 50' lot. Great starter home! Complete appt. w/ sep. entrance. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

BATHURST/FOREST WOOD
3 bdrm. bung. with bsmt. apt. on 45' lot in excl. location. Asking $299,000. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

3000 BATHURST ST.
Upgraded luxurious and spacious condo, 2nd floor, not facing Bathurst, 24 hr. sec. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

YONGE/LAWRENCE
Immaculate, charming 2 storey det. 3 bdrm. on quiet street. Excellent value. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.



EXCLUSIVE! BATHURST/BEVERLEY GLEN BLVD.
App. 2600 sq. ft., 4 bdrms., den, fam. rm., white kit. w/3 skylights, cathedral ceiling at front, main flr. laundry w/entrance from garage, parquet floors, dusty rose broadloom, jacuzzi and separate shower in ensuite in master bdrm., ceramic floors and backsplashes! Won't last! Call Polina Brener or Irit Cohen, Sales Representatives, 771-7100.

BATHURST/STEELES
Beautiful, raised sidesplit in Bathurst Village, 4 bdrms., double garage, fam. room, white kitchen, more, more! Call Polina Brener or Irit Cohen, Sales Representatives, 771-7100.

BATHURST/STEELES
Primrose I, luxury corner unit, approx. 1412 sq. ft., extra-large liv. room, solarium and balcony, 2 bdrms., 2 baths + more! Call Irit Cohen or Polina Brener, Sales Representatives, 771-7100.

BATHURST – CENTRE
Cape Cod beauty on quiet cul-de-sac. 4 br., gourmet kit., lib., formal din., huge liv. Call Ken Wilder, Sales Rep, 771-7100.

BATHURST/STEELES
1600 sq. ft. townhouse – THE CASITAS. 3 br., fully upgraded, fin. bsmt., under. park. Call Ken Wilder, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

NORTH OFFICE 771-7100

BAYVIEW/STEELES
Immaculate semi-detached 3 bdrm. bungalow, finished bsmt., strip oak hardwood floors., professionally landscaped, $229,900. Call Ken Wilder, Sales Representative, 771-7100.

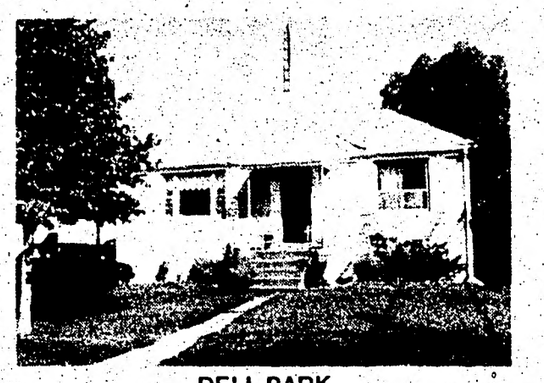
BATHURST/YONGE /FINCH/STEELES
1, 2, + 3 bdrm. condos, your choice. Anxious vendors. Call Joseph Soer, Sales Representative, 771-7100.

CENTRAL OFFICE 787-1712

HILLMOUNT
Dream custom home! Granite hallway, oak plank hardwood floors, approx. 4200 sq. ft. Asking $799,000. A must see! Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

BATHURST/HILLHURST CONDO – REDUCED
A rare find! 2,500 sq. ft. of luxury, custom renovated & decorated. One suite per floor, wrap-around balcony. Call now! Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

VIEWMOUNT – REDUCED
Spacious 4 bdrm. on 50'x140' lot! Eat-in-kitchen, new bath, fabulous location near schools, shops, TTC. Call now! Only $359,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.



DELL PARK
Detached bungalow on 50' lot, basement apartment, only $229,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

HILLMOUNT
50'x137' lot, well maintained 3 bdrm., spacious kitchen, asking $349,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

CENTRAL OFFICE 787-1712 • NORTH OFFICE 771-7100

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SKYMARK REVIEW DON MILLS & FINCH

SKYMARK: Selection of 2-bdrm. to 2-bdrm. + den. For our updated inventory call Mr. Santee Leung **THE SKYMARK SPECIALIST**, 441-2003/24 hrs. on call, carphone + pager. **SANTEE REALTY INC.**

GIDEON WAICHENBERG
CONDOMINIUMS

Thinking of retiring in a luxury condo? Call for a FREE current list of condos avail. Re/Max Vista Rlty. Gideon, 520-5700, 1-800-461-1887.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

SKYMARK II RENTAL: Open-concept 2-bdrm. + sol. Approx. 1,750 sq. ft. Santee Leung 441-2003. Santee Realty Inc.

40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT

3000 Bathurst S Lawrence 2 bed 2 bath East view immaculate cond. 444-8461 or 756-0594

50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Springmount Seniors Residence
. . . the home away from home for Seniors
For further info and personal tour call
(416) 247-3378

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Avenue Rd./St. Clair sublet. Luxury renovated 3-2 Laundry, air, park. 922-9112

One bedroom ground floor with underground prkg at Sheppard /Bathurst Avail Feb.1 635-5031

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apts.
highrise
Only 6 apts on each floor
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Golden Lakes Village, WPB Condo, Villas. 1b/11/2 b, LR, DR, Kit, Sun RMS, Fully Furn. $29,900 OBO. Days905-832-2293 or Evngs 905-476-2383

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Delray Beach, King's Point 2 /2 condo. Immaculate $1100+ u.s. season. 444-9915

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

North Miami Beach Equipped condo efficiency on ocean near Marco Polo for January. Heated pool. Call 730-8772

Hallandale near ocean. 1bedroom 11/2 bath. Balcony From January. $1500/mo. 638-7257 or (305)458-1115

Lauderhill Inverrary area Seasonal rental 2bd/2ba $1150, W/D, 24hr sec, shopping nearby Pool, active clubhouse, 3 mo. min. (305)733-6293 evngs.

Miami Beach The Alexander at 52nd St. 2 bdrm convertible, 2 bathrooms. Monthly $2800 u.s. weekly rates avail. No shabbos calls:789-2740

Pompano Beach, 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Avail Jan &Mar 881-1432.

Rent Now $1500 u.s. Immaculate, 2 bed condo, clubhouse Season. Fort Lauderdale area 202-366-9585, 202-364-6669

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

Naples on the Gulf
Still Paradise in Florida. Buy or rent condos& homes. Contact Sam Friedland Robert Hall& Assoc, Rltr. 1100 5th Ave. S.Naples FLA 33940. FAX 813-566-9988. Phone 813 434 7600

140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED

2 bedroom 2 baths North Miami, Hallandale, Hollywood, condo.February. Adults. 633-9788

200 OFFICE SPACE

Medical Space Available
Bathurst & Wilson
Long established practiees
(Pediatricians etc.)
Very Reasonable Rates
Pharmacy in building. Esther
633-6828 during office hours.

230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A1 opportunity Arena Meat Shops Franchise 686-1742

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Cleaning lady avail., exper. Maria 964-8571.

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

Nanny available Live-in/ out. 2 years kibbutz exp. Hamilton/ Toronto area. (905) 627-7840

Polish couple, exp. seeks cleaning. 279-3529 message

Woman seeks employment preferably caring for elderly. Live-out.Experienced. 748-8956

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Happy New Year from "Soulmates". We'll give you something to celebrate! Call today Evelyn 633-9925

Jewish Contemporary Singles. Unique and affordable since 1985. Monthly memberships also available. 250-1345

Jewish Singles Registry. You choose your own date based on photo and biography. 398-7068

What's more important than personal happiness? **JEWISH DATELINE** can make you more personally happy. 789-0110.

270 PERSONALS

SINGLE
START A NEW LIFE WITH THE RIGHT PARTNER
•1000's Registered
•Canada's 1st professional matchmaker
SPECIAL RATES CELEBRATING OUR 3RD DECADE
O. Fren PhD & Co.
(416) 691-7775 • (416) 486-3736

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Attention curious females, attractive, wealthy,prof. male, 35, has intriguing offer 633-3863.

Handsome male 39 seeks girlfriend 27-42. for dining, lectures, outings. Box 6130 CJN.

SJF living close to Toronto, non smoker 31, 5'7 would like to meet SJM who likes sports, travel or the beach for a long term relationship. Please write with recent photoBox 6126 CJN

Replying to a companion ad with a CJN box number?
For these ads simply address your mail to:
Box #_____
The Canadian Jewish News, 10 Gateway Blvd., Ste. 420, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 3A1.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Fountain pens/wristwatches. All types wanted. Will pay from $5-$5000 for your old pen or wristwatch. Ray, 891-2075.

Quality antiques, contents and estates, furniture, rugs, china and silver, paintings, bronze, etc. 833-6710 or 222-5839.

330 OBITUARIES

Memorial Donations by Phone

Make a tax-deductible donation to the charity of your choice, and have it billed automatically to your telephone number. (416/905 callers only.)

To make a $25 donation, call —
1-416-976-2225
To make a $36 donation, call —
1-416-976-2236
To make a $50 donation, call —
1-416-976-2250

18010 Alzheimer Ontario
18011 Aplastic Anemia Family Assoc. Ont.
18012 Arthritis Society
18015 Asthma Society
18018 B'nai Brith Canada
18020 Canadian Fdn. for AIDS Research
18022 Canadian Breast Cancer Fdn.
18023 FCC Children with Cancer
18026 Cdn. Assoc. for Community Living
18027 Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Fdn.
18030 Canadian Diabetes Association
18033 Canadian Liver Foundation
18034 Canadian Mental Health Assoc.
18039 Cerebral Palsy Ontario
18040 Crohn's & Colitis Fdn. of Canada
18042 Easter Seals (Crippled Children Soc.)
18043 Epilepsy Ontario
18050 Juvenile Diabetes Fdn. of Canada
18055 Multiple Sclerosis Soc. of Canada
18057 Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. of Cda.
18060 Ontario Cancer Institute
18064 Parkinson Fdn. of Canada
18067 Schizophrenia Society of Canada
18075 The Salvation Army
18078 United Church, Mission & Service
18079 Victorian Order of Nurses
18080 Baycrest Centre Foundation
18081 Distress Centre / Survivor Support
18082 Etobicoke General Hospital
18083 Jewish Family and Child Service
18084 Mount Sinai Hospital
18085 Princess Margaret Hospital
18087 Ronald McDonald House
18090 Sunnybrook Health Science Centre
18095 Toronto Hospital Foundation
18099 Women's College Hospital
18181 B'nai Brith Women of Canada
18185 Israel Cancer Research Fund
18190 Jewish Camp Council
18192 Jewish Community Centre

For tax receipts and acknowledgement cards, have your information ready.
For further information, call
CARE-TEL INTERNATIONAL
at 1-800-461-2419.
Funds received and disbursed by
CIBC TRUST

338 SHIVA CATERING

RACHEL'S CATERING
• SHIVA PLATTERS
• HOT & COLD MENUS
• SELECTION OF DELICIOUS SALADS
243 WILMINGTON AVE.
(Bathurst Manor Plaza)
633-6661

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE UNVEILING DATE.

330 OBTUARIES

Chechelnitskaya, Ester on December 12, 1993, late of 377 Ridelle Ave. #920
Fisher, Clare on December 13, 1993, late of 177 Redpath Ave. #307
Feldman, Ida on December 13, 1993
Freedman, Benny on December 13, 1993, late of 18 Borrows Street
Hambourg, Irving on December 12, 1993, late of 262 Ridley Blvd. #1613
Klein, Alan on December 13, 1993, late of 150 Neptune Dr. #605
Rabinowitz, Alter on December 13, 1993, late of 11 Goldfinch Crt. #310
Rodney, Rose on December 14, 1993, late of 133 Torresdale Ave. #208
Yanofsky, Rose on December 11, 1993.
Horowitz, Evelyn on December 7, 1993
Beigel, Doris on December 2, 1993, late of 130 Neptune Dr., #410
Kotin, Minna on December 3, 1993
Bergstein, Jack on Decermber 4, 1993, late of 7440 Bathurst St., #203
Grossberg, Max on December 4, 1993, late of 87 Pendrith Street
Apolinsky, William on December 5, 1993
Grosz, Arpad on December 8, 1993, late of 103 Almore Ave.
Galter, Issaak on December 5, 1993, late of Goldfinch Crt. #1006
Schelew, Annie on December 6, 1993, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
Lasnitskaia, Anna on December 5, 1993, late of 4222 Bathurst St. #408
Zaretskaya, Genya on December 8, 1993, late of 4455 Bathurst St. #1320
Rosh, Joseph on December 11, 1993
Dodokin Rose on December 6, 1993
Steinfield, Charles on December 8, 1993, late of 92 Denlow Blvd.
Laufer, Herman on December 8, 1993, late of 4383 Bathurst St. #209
Kleidman, Semyon on December 7, 1993, late of 4 Goldfinch Crt. #903
Grossman, Samuel on December 8, 1993, late of 7 Euphrasia Dr.
Zeevi, Lipa on December 10, 1993
Korn, Sidney on December 10, 1993
Forrest, Sylvia on December 10, 1993, late of 675 Bedford Park Ave.

Steeles-College Memorial Chapel

Blanche Loeb on Dec. 3/93, late of 2 Lynwood Avenue #201
Morris Kofsky on Dec. 3/93, late of 35 Canyon Ave. #506
Esther Konikoff on Dec. 4/93, late of 129 Hove Street
Jennie Speisman on Dec. 3/93, late of 16 Millbank Court
Ruth Godfrey on Dec. 3/93, late of 342 Spadina Rd. #405
Annie Ruda on Dec. 3/93, late of 429 Walmer Road
Esther Weinrib on Dec. 4/93, late of 468 Hidden Trail
Marsha Kerner-Cohen on Dec. 3/93, late of 5935 Bathurst Street
Gladys Sutin on Dec. 5/93, late of 630 Roselawn Avenue #503
Annice Meyerowitz on Dec. 5/93, late of 11 Ruddington Drive #621
Leslie Schatz on Dec. 5/93, late of 100 Canyon Avenue #1101
Aranka Bartlett on Dec. 4/93, late of 3560 Bathurst Street
Sandor Fisher on Dec. 7/93, late of 855 Roselawn Avenue #307
Ecaterina Baicu on Dec. 9/93, late of 200 Gateway Blvd. #1715
Arthur Miller on Dec. 9/93, late of 355 St. Clair Avenue #1406
Rose Davidson on Dec. 9/93, late of 193 Wilson Avenue #323

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CANNOT ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE ADVERTISER AND ITS CUSTOMERS AND PUBLICATION BY US SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE OFFERED.

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

All classified ads will be accepted on the basis of **NO CHANGES** in copy, and **NO CANCELLATIONS** until AFTER the first insertion.

The Canadian Jewish News cannot be responsible for the cost of more than one incorrect insertion. Any errors in the Classified Ads Section should be called to the attention of the Classified Ads Department on the first insertion of that ad.

We cannot bill for classified ads. They may be charged over the telephone to your Visa or MasterCard credit card, or you may mail in your ad with a cheque to: The Canadian Jewish News, 10 Gateway Blvd., Suite 420, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 3A1.

DEADLINE: Call 9 days preceding issue date
(for copy and prepayment)

Call 422-2528
for information on rates

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Winnipeg funeral chapel marks 60 years of service

By MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG — After 60 years of service to the Jewish communities of western Canada, Winnipeg's Chesed Shel Emes remains one of the very few non-profit, publicly-operated Jewish funeral chapels in North America.

"We know what has to be done," said Ike Permut, the organization's longtime chair.

The idea of a burial society was first proposed in 1921, but after several meetings, nothing came of it. In 1929, under community leader Abe Cohen, the Chesed Shel Emes Society was founded and today still operates autonomously under traditional halachic conditions.

The society was spurred to create a Jewish funeral home in 1931 after a Jewish man killed in an auto accident had to be taken to a non-Jewish funeral home. A house was acquired on Burrows and Main Street in North Winnipeg but strong resistance by neighbors defeated the establishment of a permanent funeral chapel.

With the help of leading Jewish political figures on City Council, in the Legislature and in Parliament, the Chesed Shel Emes Society bought a house across the street. This time, they got around neighbors' objections by registering the building as a religious institution. The Chesed Shel Emes was officially dedicated in 1933.

From the beginning, the chapel served Jewish communities in western Canada. A 1935 report showed Jews from Yorkton and Ituna in Saskatchewan, Beausejour and Portage La Prarie in Manitoba and Kenora, Ont., were buried by the Chesed Shel Emes.

There were no set rates for burial. In 1933, 27 of the 47 burials were done without charge for those who were homeless, poor, from immigrant families or from out of town. Even today, the modern Chesed Shel Emes will arrange burials free of charge for those who cannot pay. The burials are rotated among Winnipeg's four active Jewish cemeteries so that no single cemetery carries the entire burden.

Throughout the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the Chesed Shel Emes supplemented its funds through $1 community memberships and synagogue collections on erev Yom Kippur. The Ladies Auxiliary raised money through teas, door-to-door canvassing and collections in the cemeteries after funerals. Funds were also raised through the introduction of a "Golden Book" in 1938 which was intended to be a history of Winnipeg's Jewish organizations and societies.

In these early years, the Chesed Shel Emes was not only a society to serve the dead. There was also a celebratory side. Jewish holidays were celebrated, as was the reading of parshat Vayechi near the end of December. The Torah's account of the last days and burial of Jacob (Israel) was marked in Winnipeg by a well-attended yearly dinner and dance.

By the end of the 1930s, the Chesed Shel Emes had outgrown its quarters. For the only time in its history, the institution launched a community-wide fundraising appeal. In 1945, land adjacent to the original building was purchased and, in 1947, the greatly enlarged Chesed Shel Emes was unveiled to the community. That building still stands today.

Following founding president Abe Cohen's death in 1944, a number of people filled the position. The 1950s however were dominated by Sam Pitch and the 1960s by his son, Bill Pitch. During Sam Pitch's 10 years at the helm, a non-profit standard fee was instituted in place of negotiated fees. The four cemeteries also began contributing to the Chesed Shel Emes' upkeep and, in 1961, were granted the right to each have three representatives on the organization's board.

During his tenure, Bill Pitch initiated a series of changes including doing away with memberships (which were declining) and expanding and opening the board to representatives of the synagogues and to the public at large.

Goodbye Big Apple; hello Toronto

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO — New Yorker Margery Lowe thinks Toronto is a great place to have a family. That's why she and her actor husband, Clive Cholerton of Regina, have moved to Toronto from the Big Apple.

Currently starring in the musical revue *Torontosaurus*, running indefinitely at the Limelight Dinner Theatre, Lowe (born Lowenstein) was married five years ago to Cholerton, an Episcopalian, in a synagogue in Flushing, Long Island.

"We want to start having children here," said Lowe. "New York is a lot of fun, but it's no place for kids. I like the quality of life here. Toronto has grounds, trees and back yards.

"It's a whole new way of life,

Margery Lowe

theatre people having time for their own families. The only downside is that just about everything is more expensive."

The actor-singer says she and her husband have agreed to send their children to classes in Judaism and that the whole famly should attend synagogue regularly.

Lowe, who will appear at Stratford this summer in *Pirates of Penzance* and *Twelfth Night*, is one of a cast of five in *Torontosauras* who poke fun at the city's politicians and bylaws. It was written by Richard Ouzounian and David Warrack. Fellow cast members include Brian McKay, Ted Simonett, Dan Chameroy and Ann Mantini.

One of Lowe's best numbers is a spoof of Dave Nichols and the President's Choice sauces he brings back from exotic locales. To do homework for the number, she says she tried all the sauces first.

"This show, my first job in Toronto,, is a great way to learn about the city," she said.

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Viewpoints

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THE MIDDLE EAST IN TRANSITION – A SYMPOSIUM

The Uncertainties Of Transition: Israel And The PLO

by David B. Dewitt

Periods of transition are always difficult. The uncertainties and ambiguities which accompany change often seem sufficiently grave as to dishearten the hopeful and give legitimacy to the reactionary. The events leading to the recent ceremony in Washington involving Prime Minister Rabin of Israel and Chairman Arafat of the PLO delineate the past from the future, a history of violent conflict of tragic proportions and, quite possibly, a peace remarkable in both its scope and its depth.

But the possibility of peace, if it is to be transformed into concrete terms, comes with a number of major demands. From an Israeli perspective, peace requires a full acceptance of Israel by a majority of Arab and Islamic governments, including diplomatic recognition with all that entails politically, economically, and militarily. This must follow the renunciation by the Palestine National Council those aspects of the PLO charter inimicable to Israel's place in the community of nations, in particular the eschewing of violence in an effort to eliminate the Jewish State. From a Palestinian perspective, peace requires Israel's declared intent to facilitate Palestinian self-determination, in addition to Israel's acknowledgement of the PLO as the Palestinian political representative, an interim plan for administrative authority, and a relinquishing of some land. The problem with each of these requirements which go beyond the signed statements in Washington is that neither side has much confidence that the other will fulfil them.

The reasons are well known and embedded in recent memory. Both sides suspect the other; both sides live with deep and painful scars; and both sides view the other as being ideologically and religiously driven to expand, to expropriate, and to conquer. Neither side has been able to provide a uniform, cohesive, and unanimous position which might overcome these fears by its overwhelming clarity and commitment. Furthermore, neither side is yet persuaded that, were the leadership of the other to change tomorrow, the policies of hope would not be replaced with a return to the previous struggle, if not worse. Each sees its own history as a vindication of these beliefs, and each can point to evidence to substantiate much, if not the worst, of their fears.

Question More Than Two-Sided

To complicate things further, there are not simply two sides. The current government in Israel, as all before it, is a fragile coalition, formed through the complex and often tortuous process of democratic elections based on proportional representation. Ruling coalitions are as strong as the weakest link, and in Israel the place of religious parties and marginal political actors often constrains the ability of the dominant bloc. This is exacerbated by numerous interest groups within civil society, and in this case the place of the settlers in the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan, coupled with Jewish "fundamentalists" as well as those who are simply anti-Arab and/or anti-Muslim, together have the potential of acting as spoilers within a polity which prides itself on an open, pluralist, democratic process.

David Dewitt, *currently on leave, is Director, Centre for International and Strategic Studies, and Professor of Political Science at York University in Toronto. He is a Contributing Editor to* Viewpoints.

"THE ACCUSER" BY DAVID FEIST, MONTREAL

On "the other side", the PLO, itself an organization of more than a dozen groups, is responsible to the Palestine National Council. While Arafat's Fatah is the dominant group and in the past has been able to carry the day, it no longer is the cohesive unit succumbing to its chairman's preferences. Both the PLO executive committee and Fatah itself have witnessed significant defections, internal divisions, as well as erosion in popularity. Further, no longer is it challenged only from within the secularist PLO and PNC, but it now faces serious competition from Hamas, a relatively new major actor within Palestinian politics emphasizing the place of "fundamentalist" Islam in both Palestinian and Arab destiny. This is significant not only because Hamas has its roots sunk into Palestinian soil (the Gaza and West Bank) and is supported by Islamist actors elsewhere (Iran for one), but it also challenges the place of the non-Muslims (Christians) within Palestinian politics and, indeed, within the future of an emerging Palestinian national authority. This is a non-trivial issue, given that both moderates (e.g. Hanan Ashwari of the negotiating committee or even Arafat's wife) and radicals (e.g. George Habash of the PFLP) are Christians.

Were all this not enough, from an Israeli perspective "the other side"also means both Arab states and Islamic states. Engaging the Palestinians in positive diplomacy is of little comfort if a significant number of Arab states (e.g. Syria, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Algeria) and non-Arab Islamic states (e.g. Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, Indonesia) having a combination of political, economic, and military might remain steadfast in their bellicose opposition to the place of Israel in the international community.

Observers Remain Hesitant and Skeptical

On reflection, it surely is not surprising that many observers – indeed, many participants – while pleasantly surprised with the signing in Washington, remain hesitant, skeptical, and anxious. It would be foolish not to be! So what can be done? What must happen to hasten progress, to ensure peace and prosperity, and to usher in the era of normal diplomatic relations within the region? Two issues are absolutely fundamental: Israeli military and political security and Palestinian economic and political liberation. Neither will come at low cost; both will take time.

For Israel, over the coming years it must continue to invest heavily in its own military capability. It must be reassured that, if diplomacy and politics falter or fail, it will remain protected. If there is a so-called "peace dividend" for Israel, it will not be in any significant reduction in the size, capacity, and budget of its military but in the fact that the military will, finally, really be primarily a deterrent and that loss of life will no longer be such a prominent entry on the cost-benefit ledger. Politically, Israel will have to invest heavily in international diplomacy, ensuring that it both acts as a secular democracy in the pursuit of peace and prosperity for the region, and is seen to do so. It must re-establish its political credentials, eroded over the years since occupation, and especially in the wake of the Begin/Shamir governments beginning with the 1982 Lebanon invasion. It must accomplish all of this while knowing that although terrorism and occasional conventional military threats may be used to undermine it, the real physical security problems lie in the seemingly inexorable entry of the Middle East into the nuclear missile age, and the more indirect but nonetheless highly charged issue of the management of scarce strategic resources, especially water.

The Palestinians – specifically the PLO – must also invest in politics, particularly the creation of indigenous democratic institutions as well as the diplomacy of peace-building and peace-keeping both within and beyond borders. It must establish its bona fides as a political authority intent in leaving its past behind and building a record of responsible governance, effective and lawful administration, and the political will to engage in negotiation and compromise. It must liberate itself from the rhetoric of its previous declarations (e.g., "three no's") and Charter. But this alone will be insufficient. The Palestinian leadership must be able to offer its people economic opportunity. Jobs must be created; investment and commerce facilitate; long-term financial commitments made. This requires many ingredients, not least perceived political stability both within the Palestinian community and within the larger regional context, and foreign assistance coming not solely

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The handshake between Rabin and Arafat was a watershed event that ushered in a new era in the history of Israel and, in fact, in the history of the entire Middle East. The ramifications are so manifold that time is needed for new perspectives to be formed and understood.

We introduce this issue of *Viewpoints* with a symposium which we have entitled *The Middle East: Past and Future*. Our three contributors are Emil Fackenheim, David Dewitt, and Neil Caplan. They analyse the many complexities that must be unravelled before the dazzling prospect of all Arab states granting legitimacy to israel and ensuring its peaceful co-existence with them is actually realized. As the hard bargaining begins, many dangers still confront Israel as the negotiators thread their way through these various ideological land-mines that have almost become a permanent feature of the Middle East. Both David Dewitt and Neil Caplan conclude with some cautious optimism that most of us now feel. However, Professor Emil Fackenheim looks at the new peace initiative from the point of view of an Israeli resident and sets forth a number of troubling problems which, unfortunately, have not been given sufficient prominence by the various commentators who have produced a spate of articles analysing the developments to date. He concludes that Israeli public opinion is so divided on the issue that an early election will be needed once the details of the deal have emerged.

Michael Greenstein, a frequent contributor to these pages has sent an article: *Jewish Pegasus*. The winged horse has been a popular symbol of freedom and has appeared frequently in Canadian Jewish writing.

In a review essay by Edward Morgan on Benjamin Netanyahu's recent book *A Place Among Nations*, he analyses a new problematic in Jewish history, the dilemma of power. In the book, Netanyahu takes the expected position of a right- wing Israeli, advocating the retention of all acquired territory by Israel. He claims that Israel is the only country that has to "both defend itself and defend its defence of itself".

Rabbi Dow Marmur has sent us an article on "Taking Risks". He discusses the overwhelming opportunity now facing Israel to finally achieve peace with the Arabs and stresses that peace will not be achieved without taking risks. He feels that we must no longer focus only on survival, we must seek continuity, the past and the present must point toward the future.

Melech Ravich, born in 1893 was one of the leading Yiddish writers of Canada. Seymour Mayne, our Poetry Editor, has recently published a selection of Ravich's poems, which he translated into English, as a celebration of the centenary of his birth. We print one of Ravitch's poems, translated by Professor Mayne: "Good Sister, When I die".

Is Zionism In Danger?

— by Emil L. Fackenheim

In December 1992 I published an article in *Midstream* entitled "Pillars of Zionism". Now, less than a year later, I must ask the question which constitutes my title. If one pillar of a building collapses so does the whole structure. What of the pillars of Zionism today?

Let me go back to 1938, and then even further. No less a person than Gandhi had written that the "Palestine of the Biblical conception" – a nonsensical expression, of course, since "Palestine" is not Biblical – is not a "geographical tract" but is located in "hearts", a statement to which Martin Buber, his reverence for Gandhi notwithstanding, had objected that "Zion" was a metaphor but would be a poor one if Mt. Zion did not actually exist.

But the people had settled this point long before the philosophers did. On Easter day, 1903, 49 Jews were murdered in the city of Kishinev. A world still capable of being shocked by the murder of Jews was horrified. Horrified also, the 1905 Basel Zionist Congress considered this an emergency and hence also considered accepting a tract in Uganda offered by the British government which, unlike Palestine, was immediately accessible. But the Uganda proposal was turned down – including, perhaps especially, by the delegates from Kishinev. The Land has been the first pillar of Zionism ever since.

Is it in danger today? Article 6 of the PLO Charter reads as follows: "Jews who were living permanently in Palestine until the beginning of the Zionist invasion will be considered Palestinians". There are no visible signs that Chairman Arafat, the new peace partner of Prime Minister Rabin, is in any hurry to convoke the National Council for the Liberation of Palestine, to have the Charter amended by the two-third majority required by its article 33. And although presumably this is one article that Mr. Rabin would insist on having amended, his current insistence is, to say the least, low-key.

The state is the second pillar of Zionism: is it in danger? For the PLO to make peace with it, it would have to, not just amend this or that paragraph of its Charter, but scrap it completely, but for this the Israeli government has yet to ask. Past Arab-Israeli peace efforts always came to grief at once because Israel was supposed to do something whereas the Arabs were merely to say something. Now the PLO is not even asked to say very much.

But worse dangers threaten the state than words, whether those of the Charter or others.

(i) The Israeli consensus has long been that any kind of Palestinian state was too dangerous for Israel: now it is hard to see what will stop it.

(ii) Not long ago Prime Minister Rabin distinguished between security and political settlements, some kind of updating of Labour's own Alon Plan. Now little is now heard of either.

(iii) Back in 1967 The United Nations struggled about the word "the" in Resolution 242, finally deciding that Israel should withdraw, not from **"the"** occupied territories, but "from occupied territories". Enemies and lukewarm friends of Israel have smuggled the "the" back ever since. But now, when Assad talks about 242 the word "the" appears all the time, throwing in for good measure the word "all" as well. Who corrects him? What media still remember what happened in 1967? Watch for the word "the" to return with a vengeance!

Is The Law Of Return In Danger?

The third pillar of Zionism is the Law of Return.

(i) This used to be rock-like so that any Israeli government that tried to rescind it would have fallen overnight. But now there are voices, even in Israel, suggesting that Russian Jews should stay where they are so as to leave room for returning Palestinians.

(ii) Watch CNN, the BBC and others having a field day with refugees, in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon but also in the U.S. and Canada. Will the media seek out Jewish refugees, now at home in Israel, who had to flee Syria and Jordan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, leaving behind a rich, centuries-old heritage and also all their worldly goods? That would be necessary for the sake of truth but it is not a good show.

Toughest Issue Is Jerusalem

The last pillar of Zionism is Jerusalem.

(i) Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark once proposed to move the Canadian Embassy to Jerusalem, but beat a hasty retreat when the banks shook with fear about Arab money. Watch for more nice people shaking with fear when it comes to defending our Jewish Jerusalem.

(ii) In Israel, the Christian and Muslim holy places are fully protected. Does anyone remember that when in the War of Independence Jordan took the Old City they razed most of its synagogues, made Jewish cemeteries into horse stables and refused, armistice commitments notwithstanding, to allow Jews to pray at the Wall?

(iii) Does anyone talking about "Arab Jerusalem" know or care that the Old City has a Jewish Quarter? Doubtless Jerusalem is the toughest of all the issues. Doubtless also some sort of accommodation must be found in the end. But any proposal is suspect that does not postpone this to the end, after the other pillars of Zionism have been made secure from danger.

One thing is clear: **if, having returned to Zion after two millennia of exile, the Jewish people were to leave Zion once more, or were made to leave, it would be the death of Zionism.**

The Camp David accords were reached by a Likud government, but then Prime Minister Begin was backed by Labor more than by his own party. In contrast, Yitzhak Rabin's PLO accord is backed by just 61 members of the 120 member Knesset. The most dangerous and troubling part of this accord is that – add or subtract 10% – fully half the people of Israel have been left out in the cold, currently helpless. This split must be healed. To be sure, commitments made by one government must be respected by its successor. Also, the present government must have a chance to implement what it has started. But sooner or later the unity of the Israeli people must be restored. Sooner or later – and sooner rather than later there will have to be an election.

Emil Fackenheim *is a world-renowned philosopher, living in Jerusalem. He is a member of our Editorial Board.*

Viewpoints

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The End Of The Arab-Israeli Conflict?

by Neil Caplan

The recent mutual recognition and agreement between two sworn enemies, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), have left many Middle East watchers still somewhat stunned, trying to absorb and understand the revolutionary changes that took place on September 10th and 13th. Perhaps it is too soon to draw solid and penetrating conclusions about these momentous events, but the far-reaching accord which was negotiated and the symbolic hand-shake between Messrs. Rabin and Arafat on the White House lawn have forced many to reevaluate whether we are at last witnessing the end of this perplexing and – until recently – apparently intractable conflict.

Looking back over more than one hundred years of spiralling hatred and violence between Arabs and Jews in the Holy Land, it is important to try to understand why the Arab-Zionist conflict has persisted for so long. One reason is that the main contestants have seldom agreed on what the conflict was about. Another, perhaps more important, reason is that this is not really a single conflict, but rather *several* conflicts rolled into one.

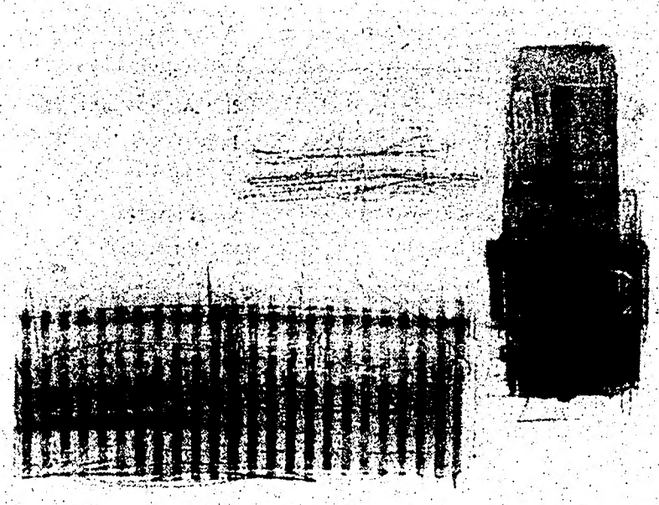
Four Interlocking Conflicts

It may be useful to look at the Arab-Israeli conflict as four different – but interlocking – conflicts. first, it is in many ways a "normal" international conflict, albeit with several unique local variations. Since 1948, the State of Israel has been officially at war with not one but several Arab countries. Low-intensity cross-border violence has erupted periodically into major regional wars, without any of these wars leading to a definitive peace treaty. The political interplay among the often rival Arab states provided important complications and obstacles for anyone who has sought to manage or resolve any of these bilateral conflicts. Untangling the regional aspects of the conflict has been made even more difficult because of the frequently intense superpower rivalry for influence in the Middle East, an area which both the United States and the Soviet Union have considered strategically vital.

Secondly, the Arab-Israeli dispute is, like many other political conflicts, one over identifiable issues and interests such as, security, sovereignty, territory, refugees, control of Jerusalem, access to water. These issues have been subject to claims and counterclaims, as each party has struggled in pursuit of its goals and has sought to redress perceived grievances. Over the years, outsiders have been called upon to mediate or to arbitrate, leaving behind a record of many failures and only a few successes. Among the former, we may list:

- half a dozen British commissions of inquiry and White Papers, from Palin to Haycraft, from Churchill to Shaw, from Passfield to MacDonald;
- recommendations for partition by the Peel Commission in 1937 and by the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) in 1947;
- the United Nations Conciliation Commission after 1949; and
- various UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, especially in 1948, 1949, 1967 and 1973.

Neil Caplan *teaches Humanities and Jewish Studies at Vanier College in Montreal. His most recent book is* The Lausanne Conference, 1949: A case study in Middle East Peacemaking *(Moshe Dayan Centre, Tel Aviv University), available through Syracuse University Press.*



"UNTITLED" BY MOSHE KUPFERMAN, SAIDYE BRONFMAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, MONTREAL

A Unique Existential Conflict

Among the few successful interventions we may cite the original armistice agreements of 1949, the Suez/Sinai and Golan Heights disengagement agreements negotiated by Henry Kissinger following the 1973 war, the Camp David Accords (1978) and the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty (1979).

Now, if we were dealing with just these two typical sorts of conflict, the Arab-Israeli conflict would still be complicated enough and far from easy to resolve. But, in fact, this long-simmering dispute is much more than a political conflict over concrete issues. The Zionist-Arab conflict must also be seen as an *existential* conflict between two rival peoples who have both insisted that their security, their very *existence* and their future depended on their ability to exercise sovereign independence over the same territory (whether one calls it Palestine or Israel) which each has considered its exclusive homeland. Historical claims and arguments have been reinforced by deeply-held religious convictions, leaving little scope for tactical flexibility, bargaining or empathy for the humanity of one's adversary.

As an offshoot of this third sort of conflict is a fourth: a *psychological* conflict, which has seen generations of faithful followers subjected to an incredible amount of conditioning and brainwashing. This has produced an unusually intense mistrust and hatred of the enemy, accompanied by a self-righteous sense of victimhood. This sense has been strengthened not only by feeling the brunt of the opponent's aggressive behaviour, but also by each party's selective perception, its lapsing into double-standards in morality, and a particularly chauvinist twist to the reading, writing and re-writing of its history.

The Dynamics Of Deadlock

Israelis and Arabs have long carried the burden of a history of being and feeling victimized. Each succeeding generation has felt compelled by recurring tragedies to divert much of its attention away from positive growth into fostering a defensive and distrustful mentality. Over the years, mainstream elements in each community have become locked into what may be called "the dynamics of deadlock". Loyal followers have sought and found heroic leaders to wage their noble struggles, but this leadership style has produced a self-perpetuating and self-fulfilling negativity. Nationalist leaders on both sides have appealed to – and fanned – the worst fears of their followers. in addition, each party has invested immense amounts of money and much energy in waging sophisticated propaganda campaigns all around the world in an effort to discredit, delegitimize, and demonize its rivals.

Although not always overt and visible, a certain form of "peace dialogue" has been going on for decades inside both the Israeli and Arab camps. The mainstream has always supported leaders who have promised to protect the nation against relentless enemies who have denied its right to exist or who have appeared bent on its destruction. The discourse of dissenters, leftists and peace-activists has always been pale and ineffective against such mass appeal. "We must discover," the peace-seekers would argue, "how the other side sees us. We must learn to understand that we may not be the only ones who feel pain and who nurture a sense of grievance."

Locked into their respective dynamics of deadlock, the vast majority of Israelis and Arabs have had little patience for such preaching, which was seen not only as misguided but as dangerous and defeatist. What we have witnessed in recent months, however, is striking evidence that the psychological sensitivity towards the "enemy" – which used to be the monopoly of the peace-camp – may have infiltrated quietly into the thinking of the recognized leadership on both sides. Like many thousands of their followers, leaders too have been experiencing a cumulative "conflict-fatigue". The novelty of the past few weeks is that the self-defeating demagoguery of deadlock is moving, for the first time, from the mainstream into the margins, where its appeal is far less effective.

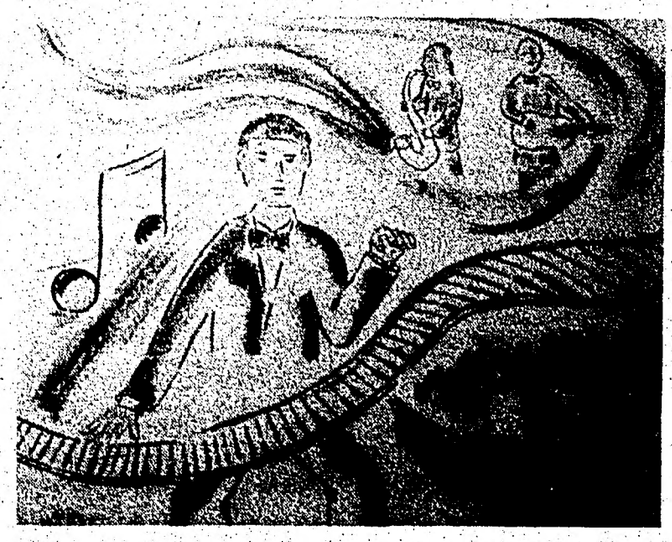
An Unusual Turning Point

Recent steps towards Israel-PLO reconciliation constitute an unusual turning point because, for the first time, the third and fourth aspects of the conflict are being softened and eroded. True, by itself the Israel-PLO breakthrough does little to wipe out the very real complications of the first and second aspects of the conflict. A resolution of the concrete political issues will continue to require hard bargaining – not to mention continued good luck regarding regional and international events over which Palestinians and Israelis have little control. Neither should we expect the accumulated scars of hatred and mistrust to be healed overnight.

But the formal declarations and the symbolic hand-shakes are dramatic signals that Israelis and Palestinians have begun to undo the effects of over a century of official and unofficial hostility and mutual non-recognition. While we do not see immediately before us the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict, we do have the best beginnings seen to date for the removal of the most difficult set of obstacles – the psychological ones.

From Symbolism To Implementation

As we move from symbolism and declarations to the implementation of concrete measures of disengagement and peace, there is no guarantee that things will run smoothly. But both parties have now, for the first time, recognized the legitimacy of the other, and this makes it a new sort of Arab-Israeli conflict, one which *may* end sooner or later. Hopefully, with the momentum generated by mutual goodwill from the successful resolution of small issues, it may not take another hundred years before the parties start to like or trust each other.



"THREE MUSICIANS" BY MARTIN PLANT, MONTREAL

Jewish Pegasus

by Michael Greenstein

After invoking a Yiddish standard for brevity ("Vos hokst du mir a chainik?"), the late Bernard Malamud offered another formula for his stories: "The writer mounts his personal Pegasus, even if it is an absent-minded nag who never made it on the race track; an ascension occurs and the ride begins." To be sure, Malamud's metaphor is meant to describe the tempo of shorter forms of fiction, but his inclusion of the "The Jewbird" and "Talking Horse" in the same collection suggests that his Pegasus may be more than just a passing figure. Indeed, the recurrence of "horses" and "birds" throughout the history of Jewish literature reveals that they are endemic to the Jewish imagination. To compensate for the heaviness and speed of their enemies' horses or their own peddlers' overburdened nags, Jewish writers invented delicate, fragile wings offering the hope of escape and redemption. Their bird's-eye perspective helped them survey and endure history's labyrinthine race track without a finish line in sight.

Words Symbolize Transcendence And Vulnerability

Ever since Noah let the raven and dove out of the ark in search of land, Jews have been avid bird watchers, for wings symbolized transcendence and vulnerability in a landless world. According to Midrash, Noah's dove symbolizes the Shechinah gone into Exile after visiting the Garden of Eden: with muddy feet and bitter olive the dove and other birds return to the Jewish imagination over the centuries. Horses, on the other hand, from the moment of the Exodus onward have represented the oppressors' power and ruthlessness directed against Jewish weakness. Where peaceful doves flew above the deluge to return with an olive branch, Pharaoh's lusty steeds chased Hebrew servants over dry land only to be swallowed by the sea. *The Song of Songs* (I:9) compares the people of Israel to those very same steeds pulling Egyptian chariots, and Solomon's invocation of their beauty indicates that these objects of desire have long fascinated downtrodden Jews persecuted by riders from the Crusades to the pogroms of the Cossacks. (One Midrash compares the Children of Israel to a mare introduced into the company of Pharaoh's stallions: the resultant disruption or chaos hints at the subversive power of literary imagination.) Pursued by the harsh reality and heaviness of these four-legged creatures, the Jew sprouted wings for flights of fancy or transcendence of ghetto boundaries.

Each of the three "giants" of modern Yiddish literature – Mendele Mocher Seforim, I.L. Peretz, and Sholom Aleichem – deals with some aspect of Pegasus. Mendele used the verse from *The Song of Songs* as an epigraph for his novel *Di Klatshe* (*The Nag*, 1873), an allegory depicting Jewish hardship in Czarist Russia. While Sholom Aleichem (Mendele's literary "grandson") doesn't put words in the mouth of Tevye's horse, he nevertheless humanizes the dairyman's companion to show just how dehumanized the Jewish situation had become.

Like Horses Jews Belong To A Different Race

I.L. Peretz's famous fable, "Bontsha the Silent", begins with a hypothesis comparing the horse's lot with the human: "If a horse, dragging a cart through the streets, should fall, people would run from blocks around to stare, newspapers would write about this fascinating event, a monument would be put up to mark the very spot where the horse had fallen. Had the horse belonged to a race as numerous as that of human beings, he wouldn't have been paid this honor. How many horses are there, after all?" To Peretz's rhetorical question, one might respond that there are just enough horses to compare – not to a thousand million human beings – but to a more limited number of Jews who have not multiplied according to the biblical prescription, to the numerical extent of grains of sand or stars in the sky. Bontsha's uncomplaining silence, his blindness, and his head bowed under the weight of centuries' burdens make him the equal of horses in Peretz's monumental account of a not-so-fortunate fall. Like horses, Jews belong to a different race.

Earth and feet soon give way to heaven and the angels' most imposing wings, as the sound of their wings and silver shoes contrasts with Bontsha's silence and soiled feet. The angels bend their heads in shame at the unending meekness they have created on earth. Bontsha's burden sags midway between fallen angels and skittish beast. Underground or in the higher courts of heaven, Peretz silences his Pegasus, for the prosecutor's last laugh indicates that the meek inherit nothing.

Unlike The Russian Jewish Mare, Bialik's Bird Offers Hope

While the Russian-Jewish mare, harnessed and earthbound, suffered at the end of the nineteenth century in the prose of Mendele, Peretz, and Sholom Aleichem, the bird offers a glimmer of hope in Bialik's poetry. In his first poem, "El Hatsipor" ("To the Bird" 1891), Bialik addresses the bird at his window who has just returned from the south to the awakening of spring. Like the English Romantic odes to nightingales or skylarks at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Bialik's bird symbolizes longing, but unlike Shelley's "blithe Spirit" or Keats's "faery lands forlorn", Bialik's nameless bird is framed, not by charmed magic casements, but by a window overlooking the harsh realities of Russia's clime. Bialik's bird answers to a pressing call for Zion from the grim pogroms of Russia. So by the end of the nineteenth century the Jewish Pegasus mentality remains incomplete since the feathers have not yet been attached to the hide. On the one hand, the burdened nag collapses on the not-so *terra firma* of ghetto and shtetl; on the other hand, the fantasy of birds offers the hope of escape from exile.

"WHITHER GOEST THOU?" BY SHIRLEY BERK SIMON, MONTREAL

Perched on window sills or at stable doors, a reawakened Pegasus prepared to take off from the threshold of a new century and to activate the dream of a Renewed Zion.

In the twentieth century Chagall took the earlier horses and put them into fabulous patterns of flight. Every creature from Rabbi to horse to fish sprouted wings to escape from the shtetl's confines, transcend earthly boundaries, and unite with a broader universe without ever losing sight of origins. Those prominent eyes look upon earth and air, past and future. In the air of fable, fiddler's music, and folklore, hierarchies tend to be levelled: the anarchic breeze of Chagall's secular Chassidism pervades his canvasses. His circus animals and carnivalesque hybrids challenge any purebred or thoroughbred rigidity, his aerial acrobats invert and displace standard conceptions of reality. In *Nocturne* 1947), for instance, a horse flies at one edge of the canvas while a bird on the ground looks on from the opposite side. Chagall mediates between the earlier fiction of Mendele and Sholom Aleichem, and the later fantasies of Malamud and Isaac Bashevis Singer.

Klein Satirizes Montreal's Pegasus

Pegasus traverses the Atlantic to arrive in A.M. Klein's "O God! O Montreal!" (1947) which satirizes his city for its neglect of culture. Having cited the nineteenth-century examples of the bankruptcy of Louis Fréchette (a French-Canadian poet), and the visit to Montreal of British poet Samuel Butler who castigated a local museum for covering up the private parts of its Greek statues, Klein turns to the twentieth century. Our century shows little improvement, according to Klein, for the scale of wages of the municipal employees of the City of Montreal ranks as assistant librarian just below a first-class stableman. With considerable irony Klein quotes the Latin motto of his city – *Concorida Salus* (Harmony is Prosperity) – and concludes his poem with "Whoa, Pegasus!" to demonstrate how little progress has actually been made over the years. His satiric Pegasus inverts these values, raises the cultural librarian by demoting the stableman, and exposes the Philistines' covered statues.

Other Canadian Poets Follow Klein's Footsteps

Following in Klein's footsteps, Seymour Mayne addresses the figure in "David":

> You, pathetic angel
> nurse damaged wings
> with hash or horse
> You want to rise, a pegasus
> merchant prince next
> to your poet friends.

Pegasus Is Alive And Well In Canadian Poetry

With its vertical potential, Jewish Pegasus rears its head in Joe Rosenblatt's "Wooing":

> Select your food, my spirit sings
> there's depth enough down in the pool
> to lunch at noon on a dizzy Pegasus
> and other drowning inmates, winged or
> unwinged.

Rosenblatt continues to invert the former image in "A Poem Is a Horse That Moves in Wheels on a High Hill":

> a poem is a horse that moves on wheels
> a poem is a horse without wings
> but flies into my consciousness
> with legs & hooves of fire

> the day is a horse
> I feed him an image
> of a sparrow

Pegasus is alive and well in Canadian-Jewish poetry.

Continued on page 7

Michael Greenstein *teaches at the University of Toronto. He is a Contributing Editor of* Viewpoints *as well as Fiction Editor of* Parchment *magazine. He recently published "Three Solitudes", a study of Canadian Jewish literature.*

Heroes In A Hard Sell

A BOOK REVIEW

by Edward Morgan

Two truths characterize the Middle East: the Jewish state faces massive threat and the Jewish state wields massive power. And between these two poles all Israeli politicians oscillate. The left/right, religious/secular, socialist/liberal, oldtimer/newcomer, ashkenazi/sephardi, black hat/knitted*kipa*, sabra/immigrant, labour/revisionist, two states/both banks, security hawks/nuclear doves, Peace Now/*Moshiach* Now, and all of the other numerous divides that are legion in Israel's political scene, all turn and twist around the fundamental quandary engendered by the power of the threatened.

Obvious as it is, however, this black belt pulled too tight around the belly receives little analytic attention. And yet it is an all but inescapable phenomenon which holds up the pants and painfully swells the gut of debate in one of the world's most complicated polities. Strength without inner peace, says the master, gives the fighter no rest. If in decades past the complexities of Europe centred around the Jewish question – the placelessness of those outside the jigsaw puzzle of nation states – today's complexities of the Middle East centre around the question of Jewish power – the legacy of those who have taken their place in the puzzle but are having a hard time with its ultimate size and shape.

Massive Threat vs. Massive Power

To his credit, Benjamin Netanyahu stares the question of Jewish power in the eye. It's a problem that he's had some role not only in formulating but in forming, first as a soldier and then as a diplomat and politician. Like it or not, Netanyahu's vision of this perplexing situation is a coherent one. Locating Israel's place among the nations lies in directly engaging the country's central problematic – the power of the threatened – and there is nothing indirect about Netanyahu's engagement. Addressing his fellow citizens as well as the world at large, Netanyahu plays the analyst's game of talking through the positions that the majority of his constituents, preferring to push the apparently immovable rather than to speak to the apparently deaf, have given up trying to voice. Through the Likud years, from Sadat through Lebanon to the *intifada* and Madrid, Israel's positions were for the most part right; but its leaders, as the good guys always insist, have got some 'splainin' t'do.

There's no doubt that Netanyahu enjoys talking about his country. Military history, ideological history, dispersion, settlement, holocaust and redemption, Philistines, Palestinians, and a near-cartoonized footnote on the one-armed Trumpeldor at Tel Hai (it's awesome to die for our country) all combine in an Israel-centric view of history. There is an unbroken, if squiggly line leading from Bar Kochbah to Jabotinsky, Begin and beyond. More interesting, however, is the fact that Netanyahu's book is an exercise in what it preaches. From beginning to end, *A Place Among the Nations* talks about talking about the state of the Jewish state. The tale becomes almost less important than the story of its telling to an ignorant and/or disbelieving audience.

The escape route from the equally dead ends of humbled concessions and fatalistic defiance, the way to come to grips with the dilemma of power, is to take seriously the statement in Churchill's 1922 White Paper that "the Jews are in Palestine by right, not sufferance". And the way to assert rights is to do what one would have thought the pre-sovereign Jews,

"WHO HAS THE RIGHT?" BY SHIRLEY BERK SIMON, MONTREAL

who took basic training in *cheder*, did best: to make an argument. In this, Netanyahu follows the revisionist trend of rebellion against the silent machismo of his Labour compatriots. Where Ben-Gurion infamously did what he thought had to be done without so much as saying so Jabotinsky jabbered his way into Zionist history; where Rabin as premier in the 1970's frosted the Americans into distrust, Begin was notorious for speaking to Jimmy Carter's aids in the language of Middle East 101. Netanyahu proves he's tough; but to read his lips takes a good 400 pages.

Advocacy Can Solve Problems That Action Cannot

That is at once the great irony and the great message of Netanyahu's book. Coming from a soldier's tradition of action where words fail, a champion of the Israeli right advocates the art of advocacy as the solution for problems which action alone can only perpetuate. It actually matters to Netanyahu that Israel not only retain its forty mile girth around the waist but that it do so in the names of Judea and Samarea; the "territories" are simply not the west bank of either the river or the kingdom next door. Having achieved strength in its childhood, the country now needs to master argument in order to mature. It is Palestine, Netanyahu explains, that represents the historically politicized (de-Judaized) term, and he inflates the nomenclature to the size of a potent weapon. Having finally achieved puberty and the land, the challenge now is to overcome the complexes of power by reasserting the ancient names. It's a conversation of rights and property with substantial footwork: teenage ninja titles.

Some battles, of course, are easily won. Netanyahu's own preoccupation with the PLO's incessant incantation of the "occupied territories" ritual provides a demonstration of his technique. It's not only that a chant from the pews, repeated often and fervently enough, may actually move heaven and earth; it's that the words actually change content without changing their sound so that one prayer for relief melts formlessly into another. It takes only an eye for the right press and an ear for the key words to uncover the trick of alternatively demonizing the Jewish presence in Marjayoun, Ariel and Dizengof Square, depending on the audience. Property acquired by deed gets clawed back by word of mouth. Netanyahu's skill is in holding his nose and rooting it all out. The overall effect is to reverse the approach by which the "occupation" has become a fluid word play capable of spilling over any given border. Compelling full disclosure, not to mention the occasional surprise revelation, are techniques all advocates espouse. And if you have no effective suppressant, it helps to administer an expectorant now and again.

Popular Impression Of Right/Wrong Is Caricature

Other fights require slightly more rhetorical skill. Still, Netanyahu demonstrates that anyone who cares enough to take a serious historical look at the pre-State "settlements" at Kfar Etzion, Hebron, Ramat Rachel, or, for that matter, in the old city of Jerusalem, or who gazes at the empty hills that dominate the terrain between the scattered Arab towns, must dismiss as caricature the popular impression of wrong and right in the region. The descriptions are panoramic, the blows are of the sweeping roundhouse variety that take pages rather than sentences to hit their mark. But ultimately the advocacy is what it should be. You have to talk your way into the heart of the country; to push on the ground without so much as a reminder or a speech is a recipe for coronary arrest. Who exiled who; who conquered what land when; whose return displaces who; who really immigrated where when; etc. It all takes time and effort, but a chapter's worth a thousand pictures of hilltops capped with caravans and a barbed wire seal.

And then there's some bad guys to whip on the home front. the economy, the bureaucracy and the electoral system all take a flurry of deserving hits, for the most part in the name of the party that created them. In a bout of oratory pugilistics, Netanyahu weaves and bobs from petty ministerial power plays to foreign investment to Russian *aliya*, with the hard blows amounting in the aggregate to a chapter that scores an early round victory. The problem, of course, is that in the end these domestic targets are soft. They become putty in the hands of an advocate used to the Arab scene; and once you've trained for Mohammed you can always take on clay.

It Has Had Both To Defend Itself And Defend Its Defence

But the best shots are saved for arguing the cause of argument itself. Advocacy as therapy in a pathological world, advocacy as remedy in a season of misfeasance, advocacy as double cheese atop a heavy but empty calorie pie – it all makes sense if you spend the superhuman energy required to convince. Netanyahu sells his subject matter, his nation and its place, about as hard as it can be sold to a market that has tended to resist (or ignore) the pitch. No other country, Netanyahu contends, has to both defend itself and defend its defence of itself. And the explanation has to do with the transformation of the Jew from ghetto mouse to radical rat, as the theme song goes. Jewish heroes fight not only those who hate them but those who would drown them in tears lightly salted for the hapless martyrs of diaspora life. The victim is not an easy creature to deal with now that the slow, tortuous race to full size and strength has been won. Turtle power! For sheer argumentative tenacity, Netanyahu's hard to beat.

Edward Morgan *is a lawyer living in Toronto who has worked closely with Canadian Jewish Congress in the Jewish Day School funding case.*

Taking Risks

by Dow Marmur

My mother believes that the world is populated by hostile nations who at any moment, and when we least expect it, may bring about the destruction of the Jews. Her aim, therefore, is to keep out of their way, and to urge others to do the same. Sticking together as a community and not making waves in front of the gentiles are among her principal tools of Jewish survival.

She is usually full of dark foreboding and nameless fears, for which she may be forgiven, though. For she was a child in Poland during World War I, old enough to grasp the devastation that war brings to all who experience it. She was a refugee from Hitler in various parts of the former Soviet Union during Word War II. And even in ostensibly idyllic Sweden, where she now lives, she is a witness to the resurgence of racism, including anti-Semitism, in this free and ostensibly democratic country.

Well-Grounded Fears

Her fears, then, are well grounded; they have a long and varied pedigree. Though I don't share them, I understand them. I was roughly the same age during World War II that she was during World War I. However, I was also the beneficiary of Swedish hospitality and a Swedish liberal education; afterwards, I was privileged to live in Britain with its thriving Jewish community; and, now as a Canadian, I remain impressed by this country's record of integration of its minorities in general, and its Jews in particular. I know that things can be good, and am, therefore, prepared to be less guarded and take more risks, even through I remain worried about the future.

My children, on the other hand, are not ambivalent about the Jewish condition. They consistently show the optimism I display only sporadically. Each of them, citizens of different countries – one of the sovereign State of israel – is at home in the world. It may not be a perfect world, but they don't perceive it being more precarious for Jews than it is for others.

They are fully fledged members of the generation of Jews who have left the periphery and entered world history. I am, at best, only a visitor in that world. My mother does not belong to it at all. The difference in approach between the generations has brought me to the conclusion that the way we look at Judaism in general, including current trends, is less determined by the data before us and more by how old we are and where we were reared.

Thus my mother's biography is a compelling argument for the view that the Jew's principal aim must always be survival. Every stage in life, be it painful or pleasurable, has to be endured, because we must stay alive; "they" – whoever "they" may be – must not get us down. As long as we survive, the struggle will have been vindicated.

For Life As a Jew Goes Beyond Survival

I, on the other hand, aim for a life as a Jew that is more than mere winning battles. I want my Judaism to have meaning and purpose; in 1982 I wrote a book called, *Beyond Survival*. I have come to realize that to be a Jew means more than maintaining the *status quo*; that it requires us to move from the struggle for our own survival to solidarity with all who are in danger; that being a Jew must mean trying to help "mend the world".

My children seem quite confident about Jewish survival; their concern is with Jewish continuity. Whereas my parents' generation was imprisoned in the past, and mine is stuck in the present, my children's generation regards the past as very passé and takes the present for granted; it is looking toward the future, and it wants it to be better than both past and present.

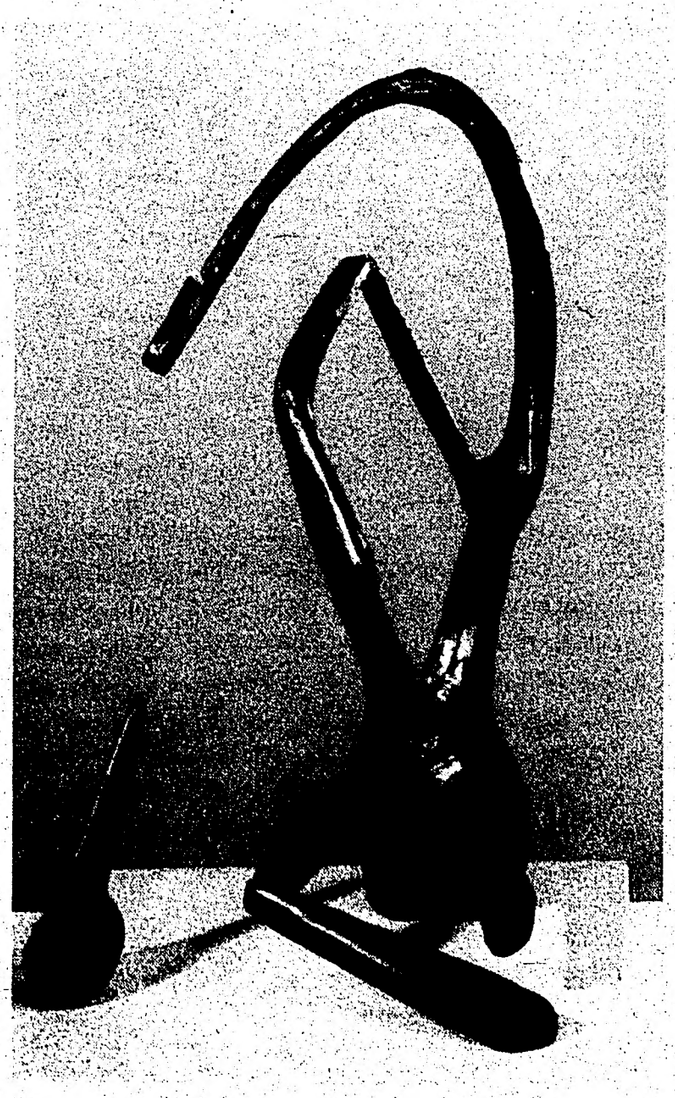
The question that, above all the other issues of vital concern to our people, preoccupies us in this hour is: Will there, at last, be peace in the Middle East? For all the expert analyses and wise predictions, I believe that the way we answer this question will ultimately depend on to which generation we belong, and how we view the prospect of survival in relation to the promise of continuity. My mother's generation will be highly skeptical; mine is inclined to be cautious; my children and their peers may be ready to celebrate.

Israel Must Take Risks For Peace

Which is a good enough reason to set aside enough skepticism and caution to celebrate with them. The possibility of peace between Arabs and Jews in the Land of Israel and beyond has – as Mr. Rabin put it in that memorable White House ceremony on September 13, 1993 – our children and their children in mind. Even if, seen from the painful experience of the past and the narrow perspective of the present, the accord with the PLO seems fraught with dangers, the leaders of Israel must take the risk, a courageous calculated risk.

Though history points to many potential triumphs turning to ashes, it also tells us that hope and commitment are the prerequisites of success. Whereas the stress on survival prompts us to take the former approach, stress on continuity compels us to opt for hope and commitment.

The spectre of Neville Chamberlain waving a document with Hitler's signature and insisting that it guaranteed peace in our time has become a metaphor and a reason for skepticism; it has figured prominently in the speeches by those who oppose the accord. For the fear of another Holocaust haunts us all and makes it difficult not to see Hitler in every enemy of the Jewish people, Arafat included. We suspect all politicians that they will gamble with our survival for the sake of a photo opportunity. Peres, the real hero of the accord, is thus often also described as Israel's most distrusted public figure.



"UNTITLED" BY SHIRLEY BERK SIMON, MONTREAL

Fear Breeds Violence – Hope Breeds Peace

Yet, these understandable reactions must not be the last word. For, however traumatized we may be, we also know that as fear breeds mistrust and violence, so does hope breed confidence and peace. A worldview that sees all the nations as our enemies can easily come true, turning the quest for survival into a futile endeavour. By contrast, a perception of the world in which Jews have rights and opportunities will help to secure these rights, enhance the opportunities, and strengthen our determination to continue and to flourish.

Whereas stress on survival in response to fear can only be reactive to the initiatives of others, commitment to continuity arising out of hope puts much of our destiny into our own hands.

The present debate may be said to centre around one Hebrew word. When pronounced the Sephardi way Israelis speak, it is *bittachon*, security. Those who regard survival as the primary objective, fear that the agreement with the PLO threatens Israel's security. Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of the Israeli Parliamentary Opposition, whose task it is to challenge the government in power, used the security argument in his condemnations of the accord. He accused Prime Minister Rabin and his colleagues of gambling with Israel's security, and therefore jeopardizing Jewish survival.

Those who disagree with Netanyahu also speak of *bittachon*. As strategists they pronounce it as he does but insist that the military dangers are not very serious and much to be preferred to the present situation. But those who marshall theological arguments for peace may pronounce the word in the old Ashkenazi-Yiddish way as, *bittochen*. In this form the word means "trust" in God rather than "security" brought about through human effort. Paradoxically perhaps, those who have confidence in Israel's ability to defend itself, even if Arafat sits in Jericho, are prepared to trust that God will help them to bring about real peace – and security.

Young Jews Have Overcome The Trauma Of The Holocaust

Many of them are young men and women who are committed to Jewish continuity. For them, Arafat may be an enemy, but he is not Hitler incarnate, because they have largely freed themselves from the trauma of the Holocaust. They see the destruction of European Jewry as a unique event that has fundamentally altered Jewish history, but it is nevertheless of the past; even Germany is now an ally of Israel. Their way of making sure that what happened then does not happen again is not to identify every opponent as a Nazi, but to create a Jewish state that lives in peace with its neighbours, and with the world. They are investing in continuity for the sake of a better future.

Through neither the Prime Minister nor the Foreign Minister of Israel can be counted among the young, they seem to be sensitive to the aspirations of the young. It cannot be a coincidence that virtually all the major Israeli players in the talks with the PLO were born after the Holocaust and after the creation of the State of Israel. Though still relatively young in years, they are already veterans of many wars, and they know that even if these wars were necessary, they did not lead to peace. All they did was to take them from one crisis of survival into the next; continuity remained elusive.

Of course there were also young people among those who demonstrated outside the office of the Prime Minister in Jerusalem against the accord. But many of them were settlers in the territories with economic and ideological interests in the *status quo*,

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Rabbi Dow Marmur *is senior Rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto. He is a Contributing Editor and a frequent contributor to our journal.*

"AND GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH"
BY ROBERT PLANT, MONTREAL

jeopardize long-term prospects. They are, indeed, a formidable opposition, but making a lot of noise, some of which is sponsored by Lubavitch in America, is not the same as speaking for the people of Israel.

"Peace" Is Made With Enemies Not Friends

The majority of Israelis are more likely to echo the oft-quoted words of Prime Minister Rabin: "I am ready for painful compromises. In general peace is not made with friends. Peace is made with enemies, some of whom – and I won't name names – I loathe very much". This seasoned politician and veteran soldier has not lost his sense of realism; he is not promising paradise to his people, only an opportunity for stability, security – and continuity.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was no less realistic when, speaking on behalf of the government of Israel, he said: "We're leading the nation toward the future, to save ourselves from being Balkanized in Israel and the territories, to spare us a Yugoslavia-like situation". Peres knows that the quest for survival now may, paradoxically, lead to destruction in the future, whereas taking a risk now, may safeguard continuity. The most distrusted public figure in Israel may be its true visionary.

Coincidence or not, it is impossible to ignore the fact that the ceremony in the White House took place just before the Days of Awe. The handshakes between enemies put me, as a religious Jew, to the test: Do I really believe in the triumph of faith over fear, as reflected in the Biblical story of Abraham's binding of Isaac, read on Rosh Hashanah? Do I really believe that repentance, reconciliation and atonement are possible, which is the promise of Yom Kippur? Because I do believe in this, I rejoice in the accord.

We Must Invest In Hopes Of The Future Not Fears Of The Past

As a Jew committed to the State of israel I have a responsibility to take sides. Wanting to side with those who seek to invest in the future by stressing continuity, I have another reason for supporting the accord. Even if I understand the fears of my mother, it behooves me to invest in the hopes of my children.

And, more poignantly, in the hopes of my grandchildren, the first Sabras in our family. Whenever I am with them, I am conscious that in not too many years they, too, may have to be soldiers, with all the dangers that entails. They already know what a machine gun is and what a uniform represents, because they see their father go off to do his annual reserve service. The prospect that when they grow up, much of this may no longer be necessary vindicates my commitment to continuity and entitles me, I believe, to overcome my neurosis – and to celebrate the prospect of peace, despite the dangers.

THE UNCERTAINTIES OF TRANSITION: ISRAEL AND THE PLO

Continued from page 1

from the OECD and Arab OPEC states but from Palestinians abroad who, by their example, will create a sense of confidence in the future of the area. Economic opportunity will come when there is evidence of regional stability.

Extremists Must Not Dominate Negotiations

But there is still more: the Israeli people and leadership and the Palestinian people and leadership must not let extremists define the legitimate boundaries of political discourse. In periods of transition and uncertainty, where claims are contested and futures decided, violence is likely to continue. Whether anomic or targeted, it is likely that extreme behaviour – perhaps of even tragic proportions – will occur. In such an environment, both sides as well as the international community will have to broaden their capacities to handle ambiguity, uncertainty, and what would be viewed as unacceptable behaviour. Extremism cannot be condoned, but also it cannot be allowed to undermine legitimate political and economic progress. All sides will have to be prepared to tolerate – not to accept but to respond reasonably and with consultation – activity which is meant to undermine and to destroy.

The international community can help in a number of ways. Diplomatic assistance and coordinated economic involvement are obvious and fundamental. What might also be useful is to encourage the parties to move slowly and steadily, seeking functional means to encourage cooperation and to engender trust. Over time, confidence in both the actions and the intent of the respective sides must be established. The working groups continuing since the Madrid conference in 1991 are promising. Population movements and water are but two areas which require cooperation; others might include infrastructure development (grid electrification, transport, telecommunications) higher education, R & D, and public health, all of which would benefit from involvement by outside actors. In addition, military confidence building measures (including increased transparency, prior notification of exercises, joint patrols) and regular meetings of senior military officers and planners would contribute to allaying fears regarding intent as well as capabilities. Eventually, these types of CBMs can be managed by the actors themselves, but initially external actors assisting Israelis and Palestinians could facilitate this process, including the verification of prior agreements.

Trade and Security Must Replace Guns and Terror

We must expect that any Israeli-Palestinian accord will reverberate throughout the region. Ultimately, political stability and economic growth must come with a redefinition of the politics of regional security. The future must include efforts to embrace a form of cooperative security, an inclusive formula where all states in the region seek non-military, non-violent means to resolve differences and none is excluded based on religion or ethnicity. Further, as trade and diplomacy replace guns and terror, as borders become less like walls and more like doors which welcome partners in progress, the fear of military invasion must be replaced with reassurance in the security of one's future. The military will necessarily remain a vital component, facing a more challenging task than in the days when the certainty of the enemy and its intent was without question. For that very reason, if peace is to work cooperation and consultation region-wide must be the goal. Neither the political nor the military leaders must feel weak and insecure; that is a recipe for instability, recrimination, and violence.

So for now we wait and watch. As events move forward, we should not allow episodic violence and extreme rhetoric – both likely to continue for some time – to alter the path recently set down. If Arafat or Rabin are unable to carry their political communities, this should not mean a return to the past but rather reinvigorate the multilateral talks as well as the bilateral meetings organized through Washington. Whatever happens, the past few weeks have been remarkable and, hopefully, have forever changed the nature of diplomacy in the Middle East. However, let no one be misguided in thinking that a "peace in parts" which must precede any comprehensive political security architecture, can come without the continued presence of military force. Further, if there is to be a "peace dividend", we should not look for it in any significant reduction in the military capabilities of the principal actors but rather in a substantial reduction in loss of life and property, in the psychology of fear, and in the intensity of the rhetoric of accusation.

Middle East At A breakpoint

Israel, the PLO, and indeed the Middle East are at a breakpoint. The past is clear, the future less so. Surely it is in everyone's interests to move forward into this time of transition and uncertainty with as much clarity as possible. Wishful thinking may feel good, but it does little when the realities are much harsher and the costs of being wrong rather severe. We should encourage all parties, including our own government, to work towards a peaceful resolution of this protracted and violent conflict. But let it be clearly understood that it will take time, investment, and above all, strength in the conviction that the risk faced in the pursuit of peace is far outweighed by the benefits that will result when peace is achieved.

JEWISH PEGASUS

Continued from page 4

In Canadian-Jewish fiction Mordecai Richler exploits the figure in *St. Urbain's Horseman* and in *Solomon Gursky Was Here*. In the former novel, Richler empowers his characters by placing them firmly in the saddle where they control their destiny. His inversions of historical roles are both comic and serious with their biting moral edge. If St. Urbain's apocalyptic horseman covers the Diaspora, the trickster raven in *Solomon Gursky Was Here* performs a similar function, participating fully in the lives of a Canadian Jewish dynasty. Through a Pegasus fusion of horseman and raven, Richler achieves symbolic transcendence in these two novels.

Well before Richler's symbolic evocation of Montreal's horseman, Jack Ludwig and Norman Levine also symbolically evoked broken down horses as Pegasus.

Jewish Pegasus Shown As An Ironic Incomplete Creature

Having been estranged from nature for so long, Jews were unacquainted with all the names for species of birds and horses; they nevertheless painted them in a variety of empathetic hues, creating a reawakened species. to raise their decrepit, vanquished nags from the ground, Jewish artists added wings: the resultant Pegasus never attained an idealized Greek perfection nor the beauty of Pharaoh's steeds, for the historical distance between Egyptian chariots and East European peddler's wagons was too great. Instead Jewish Pegasus tends to be an ironic, incomplete creature powerless except insofar as its talk undermines established structures. Of birds and horses, prophets and bounders, *luftmenschen* and fall guys, heaven and cloaca, fantasists and realists, chassidim and maskilim, there is no end. Forbidden from holding land while awaiting their Messiah, Jews took to the air where the winds of paradise raged against their wings of patience. When horizontal conditions become unbearable, the vertical dimension with its nostalgic flight patterns becomes a necessary fiction, a counter-mythology for the bearable lightness of being. A neo-Chassidic tailwind or anarchic breeze inspires the Wandering Pegasus from Vitebsk to Montreal and the Canadian Prairies.

LETTERS

It is hours before Succot and I have just read the *Viewpoints* supplement of Sept. 29, 93, as well as *The Neshei Chabad* women's newsletter (approx. 80 pages). This publication is printed several times a year in the Lubavitch Community in Crown Heights.

I believe that Ms. Sally Zerker would enjoy this publication and it would answer her difficulties with synagogue life and the Mechitza in particular.

Tens of thousands of Jewish women around the world are joyfully occupied for as many hours of the day as they each decide in hundreds of activities that would make a C.E.O.'s head spin including learning torah, careers, education, feeding the poor, visiting the sick, and burying the dead. THIS IS A REAL JEWISH LIFE!

The synagogue has never been and never will be the centre of Jewish life in orthodoxy.

The home has always been the place from which Jews have derived their strength, as Ms. Zerker attests in her Shabbos morning family description. How many families today would benefit from such a time every week!

The "operating part of the synagogue" is not in the synagogue. Every Jew has the power and right to speak to G-d at any time and any place and our rich literature and legends attest to this fact constantly. My daughters have come with me to shul since they could toddle and enjoy the privacy of prayer without the many social difficulties and niceties that hinder this communion when members of the opposite sex are present.

The Mechitza is not a wall that separates or alienates either sex. It is a mechanism whereby both sexes recognise that they are part of a collective whole, responsible for each others spiritual growth. The unfortunate experience in Haifa is not a reason to throw out the "baby with the bathwater".

The fact that men are responsible for more positive commandments is because we require structures to keep us focused in the right direction. The innate feminine aspects of Binah (understanding) and co-operation have been the fuel and foundation of the Jewish People since the time of Sarah Immanu and four walls and a roof cannot contain this spirit.

Tzvi Morantz,
Montreal, Canada

RESPONSE

Tzvi Morantz, like many other orthodox Jews (or for that matter orthodox Christians or orthodox Moslems), are absolutely certain they KNOW the true way. And because they are so certain that theirs is the only truth, their task seemingly is to spread the message. And do they ever preach! Morantz is so absorbed in himself and his preaching that he obviously failed to understand what I was saying in my article.

Apparently he thinks I was writing about having "difficulty with synagogue life and the *mechitza*". Wrong! I have no such difficulty. My article is about the meaning of the *mechitza*, and how I slowly came to the realization of its meaning as my life experience broadened beyond the limits of orthodoxy.

Might I also suggest to Morantz that he take the time to educate himself about the actual objective of the *mechitza*, because he is simply wrong when he says that the barrier is there to serve the interest of both sexes. It isn't! Its purpose is to protect men from the distraction of women while praying, thereby sparing them from those "evil thoughts" which would lead to sinfulness. The *mechitza* was never conceived for the benefit of women, either for their "privacy of prayer" or to avoid the "niceties" when "the opposite sex are present", to quote Morantz. The symbolism of the *mechitza* which opened my eyes to the irrelevance of women to orthodox synagogue life, seems to have a quite different symbolic significance for Morantz. For him it illuminates and shields men and women from an innate discomfort when they are together. But for those of us who think men and women can and do enjoy normal and natural communication free of sexual inference, his reason for the serviceability of a *mechitza* is vacuous.

Now let me correct another falsehood in Morantz' letter. Since when has the synagogue "never been and never will be the centre of Jewish life in orthodoxy", at least for men?

I suggest he spend some time living near an orthodox synagogue in Jerusalem – as I have – and watch how observant Jewish men spend all their days and evenings in the synagogue. The orthodox and ultra-orthodox synagogues I was able to observe were active male "clubs", fully peopled at all hours, until as late as 11 o'clock at night. If the home was the centre of their Jewish life, as Morantz asserts, why weren't they at home?

No one would deny the importance of the home for instilling values and modes of behaviour. But let's not kid ourselves about who carries the load for running a Jewish home. It's the women. And that burden is particularly heavy among the orthodox where women bear and care for very large families, and where money is often very short, especially when their husbands' income depends on stipends from the Israeli government and from charity, instead of on wages for work.

So while men don't contribute much to the daily demands of a Jewish home, the concept of the Jewish home as the focus of Jewish life must have originated with men, because men are the source of all Jewish thought. It's clear to me that this concept is a very useful myth. So is the distinction that Morantz makes between men needing positive commandments "to keep (them) focused in the right direction", and women having innately feminine characteristics of *binah* and co-operation. It's a wonderful philosophy to keep women in line and to let them think that their toil is God's design and not man's invention.

Sally Zerker,
Professor of Economics and Social Science at York University, Toronto

POETRY

GOOD SISTER, WHEN I DIE

Good sister, when I die
quietly heeding the last call of my name–
wrap me up in soft green linen
and deliver my body to the flames.

Up through dark smoke to the blue heights
is the way I want to surrender
all my given limbs and parts–
and become one with the sky as I soar.

Returning the body
this hour without gain
will free the soul
to live forever again.

And in the cycle of metamorphoses
and prepared for the next cycle again
it will become a ring in the endlessly
rolling rings of the chain.

Yes, over and over, a ring within rings,
never changed into human shape or figure–
but transformed into a deer full of secrets in the forests,
or an albatross by distant shores.

Good Lord, I adjure you, I charge you
– I curse and bless–
bring me back in any of a thousand forms
but not as a human, I confess.

You ask: Why? You mean–Do you think
I want to keep secrets now, not be above board?
It's simple–the human is your gravest
error, You infallible Lord!

Good sister, when I die
quietly heeding the last call of my name–
wrap me up in soft green linen
and deliver my body to the flames.

Melech Ravitch

Translated from the Yiddish by Seymour Mayne with Rivka Augenfeld

Melech Ravitch, *(1893-1976) was one of the leading Yiddish writers of Canada.* Night Prayer and Other Poems *(Mosaic Press), a selection translated by Seymour Mayne has recently been published in celebration of the centenary of the poet's birth. Seymour Mayne is Poetry Editor of* Viewpoints.

"MORTAL NORTH" SOÑA HOLMAN, TORONTO

MAHARAL

In the gloom of Prague
I sought out
the messenger of God
and I asked him
when the mystery of Israel
would end. And He said, the time is not yet ripe,
but I will show you glimmerings and flashings
of the lamp.

And shadows came
and wrote their words
upon my wall. My dreams
receded, and I saw
the faces of the hosts of demons. My heart sank
beneath the waves,
and my breath was choked with blood.

And I said, my Lord,
when will the wound
be closed? And He said,
He will come suddenly
when the nations
are broken, and your sons
and daughters love
Me with a perfect love.

Morton Manilla

Morton Manilla *is a well known poet living in Toronto. His poetry has appeared in many Canadian and American magazines.*